



Media Release

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FROM THE OFFICE OF VRFISH – VICTORIAS' RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY

Trees Here to Stay...

A great result for the fish and an even better result for VRFish.

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) has advised they will not be making any application seeking approval to remove standing trees from any part of Lake Eppalock.

GMW recently facilitated a consultative process involving key stakeholders in which a request from the City of Greater Bendigo to trim and relocate standing timber from the Kimbolton Pool at Lake Eppalock was considered and discussed.

The main reason for this application was to allow power boating and water skiers to return to the lake at the lower water level.

However, common sense has prevailed and the trees (woody habitat) are here to stay!

Research by environmental management agencies Victoria wide continue to identify many compelling values that woody habitat contributes to the ongoing survival of all aquatic communities and, most importantly, standing dry trees during low water levels are also a vital refuge and resting place for many highly valued regional and migratory bird species.

While it is well recognized the water levels of Lake Eppalock are at extremely low levels, it must also be identified large standing trees (woody habitat) will form an extremely vital refuge/habitat column that must retained as a high priority asset when higher water levels are again available.

VRFish places an extremely high value on the protection and enhancement of all aquatic habitats in our inland water storage reservoirs, lakes and riverine systems.

Today's advice is extremely pleasing and VRFish congratulates GMW in its decision.

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