



# Media Release

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FROM THE OFFICE OF VRFISH – VICTORIA'S RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY

## VRFISH CONGRATULATES THE BRACKS GOVERNMENT.....

**VRFish has applauded the State Government announcement to include promotion and improvement to recreational fishing in its “moving forward” strategy for provincial Victoria...**

On Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>, Premier Steve Bracks announced the “Moving Forward” strategy. Included in the announcement was recognition that recreational fishing is a major social and economic contributor to provincial communities and is a significant tourist drawcard.



*Pictured L to R - VRFish Chairman Bob Pearce, Premier Steve Bracks, Minister for Agriculture Bob Cameron and VRFish CEO David Kramer at the announcement yesterday.*

Bob Pearce VRFish Chairman and David Kramer VRFish CEO were invited to attend the announcement in Beaufort and would like to congratulate the Victorian Government on including \$3.2 million to increase opportunities for recreational fishing across provincial Victoria.

“VRFish see this announcement as great recognition of the social value placed on recreational fishing by the Bracks Government. It is important that families spend quality time together, and what better way than to go fishing, in provincial Victoria,” Mr Pearce said. “It also recognised the substantial economic contribution that recreational fishing makes to the state, including the strong support of kindred

industries, such as boat manufacture, that generates many millions of dollars within Victoria’s economy and significant employment opportunities throughout the state”, he said. He also welcomed the Government’s initiatives in proposed improvements to local ports throughout Victoria.

Mr Pearce continued “I would like to congratulate the State Government for these initiatives and offer the services of VRFish to assist in any way it can in delivering outcomes from this strategy that will benefit recreational fishing in Victoria”.

The provision of \$3.2 million over four years will improve recreational fishing facilities and infrastructure and boost opportunities for fishing as a family activity. Funded from the Provincial Victoria Growth Fund, the project will create a small number of heavily stocked waters, provide better access to areas of high recreational values and launch the First Fish Campaign to promote a more family-friendly image of recreational fishing.

The Government’s “Moving Forward” strategy also recognises that recreational boating is worth around \$200 million to the local economy around Lakes Entrance. The Government will make a major investment of \$31.5 million over six years to install and operate a comprehensive sand management system to keep the Port of Lakes Entrance open, navigable and safely operating into the future.

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