



Media Release

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

WALKERVILLE NEEDS SAFE BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITIES....

VRFish Chairman, Bob Pearce, has slammed the Walkerville Foreshore Committee for its constant opposition to safe boat launching facilities.

Boating Industry Association Victoria (BIA) CEO, Lindsay Grenfell agreed, stating that “boat manufacture is one of Victoria’s most important manufacturing industries, and generates \$2Billion annually and a lack of adequate launching facilities around the State is restricting people’s ability to enjoy their leisure time boating activities.”

The majority of boats manufactured in Victoria are used for recreational fishing and thousands of Victorians are employed in the fishing and boating sector.

Both VRFish and the BIA are concerned about the dangers associated with boat launching and retrieval at Walkerville.

“It is unsafe to retrieve boats due to the ocean swells that can spring up at any time. There have already been a number of accidents and there is potential for more severe incidents to occur”, advised Pearce.

VRFish and the BIA are working with the Bracks Government to rectify the problems with boat launching facilities throughout the State and Walkerville has been identified as one of the three most urgent.

“The Bracks Government has made it clear that they are supportive of recreational fishing from a point of view of both the social benefits resulting in families spending time together in the Victorian outdoors and, also, for the economic benefits it delivers to the State”, stated BIA CEO Lindsay Grenfell.

Pearce concluded, “The long term opposition to the provision of safe boat launching facilities by the Walkerville Foreshore Committee could make them liable in the event of any further accidents that might occur. If not legally responsible, they could be considered to be morally responsible should any serious injuries occur to anyone who is hurt while trying to launch or retrieve their boat”.