

Wednesday, 29 March 2006

GOLDEN PERCH FOR NORTHERN WATERWAYS

More than 170,000 golden perch will be released into northern Victorian waterways as part of the latest round of fish stocking by the Bracks Government, the Minister Responsible for Fisheries Bob Cameron said today.

Mr Cameron said 23,500 golden perch will be released this week as part of Fisheries Victoria's ongoing fish stocking program. Another 58,200 are scheduled to be released next week.

"On average, 1.3 million trout, salmon and native fish are released into Victoria's waterways each year," Mr Cameron said.

"During the past six years 30 per cent more fish had been stocked into Victorian waterways – or an extra 380,000 each year – compared with the previous five-year period.

"Recreational fishing contributes significantly to local economies – especially in Provincial Victoria – with an estimated value of more than \$400 million throughout the State.

"That's why we've invested an extra \$3.2 million for new initiatives to promote family-friendly fishing.

"The Government recognises the importance of recreational fishing and wants to provide opportunities to all Victorians. Our fish stocking program is a key part of the commitment."

The golden perch being released this week;

Numurkah Lake	5000
Bartlett Lake – Tatura	1000
Kialla Lakes – Shepparton	1500
Craigmuir Lake – Mooroopna	1000
Broken Creek	15,000
	23,500

Mr Cameron said 92,300 golden perch had already been released into lakes Hume, Charm, Boga, Buffalo, Kerford and Sambell, as well as Kangaroo Lake, First Reedy Lake, Kow Swamp and Seven Creeks at Euroa, this month.

"On top of that 19,540 Murray cod were put into Lake Eildon, another 10,000 were released in Greens Lake at Corop and 1000 at Lake Buffalo," he said.