

Communiqué

Recreational Fishing and Park Management

October 2009

Recreational fishing is an accessible activity all Victorians can enjoy, with friends or family or in solitude. Irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity or ability, recreational fishing complements many other experiences that heighten our connection with our natural environment, including the enjoyment of state and national parks.

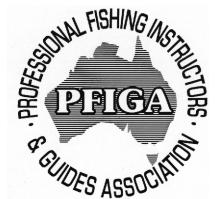
From mountain streams, rivers and lakes to estuary, beach and open ocean, the places Victorians choose to enjoy this activity are as varied as the methods used and species pursued. Recreational fishing is an activity with one of the highest levels of community participation in the state and is an important component of our rich cultural fabric. Recreational fishing brings together more than 720,000 Victorians each year in a setting that enriches not just our physical but our total wellbeing.

Recreational fishing is an experience that is directly related to natural attractions and as such is a major component of Victoria's Nature Based Tourism Strategy 2008 – 2012. It contributes some \$825 million annually to the Victorian economy based on \$2.3 billion worth of expenditure by way of travel, accommodation and other secondary purchases that occur when people go fishing in Victoria.

That is why we encourage and actively support Victorians and visitors to *“Go Fishing”* in Victoria.

We recognise:

- Victoria's unique and valuable recreational fisheries which include saltwater fisheries, inland native fisheries and the highly valued trout fisheries;
- The Victorian Government's commitment to:
 1. providing high quality opportunities for recreational fishing;
 2. the concept of 'healthy parks, healthy people ' and sustainable resource use;
 3. provide a wide variety of fishing opportunities whilst minimising the impact on the environmental values of our public land;
 4. consult with recreational fishing bodies to optimise the range and extent of sustainable fishing opportunities; and
 5. the significant social and economic benefits to the Victorian community contributed by recreational fishing, particularly the contribution it makes to regional Victorian economies and jobs.
- The impact of climate change on fishing in Victoria which will require all parties to develop appropriate responses and adapt to meet the changing environmental conditions, and to ensure sustainable recreational fishing into the future.



Healthy Parks
Healthy People



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We agree that:

- Both existing and future management plans for public parks will endeavour to maintain existing previous levels of access for recreational fishing. If ecological, cultural or recreational values and objectives are in conflict with recreational fishing then appropriate assessment and consultation with recreational fishing organisations will occur prior to any significant changes to fishing access being made.
- Fishers will be consulted during the development of management plans for parks where fishing is a current or likely activity
- Healthy parks, healthy habitats and therefore healthy fisheries are of mutual importance to both fishers and park managers
- We will work together to identify and facilitate the adoption of responsible fishing practices in line with the special environmental values of the community's parks and the complexities of working with the diverse and widespread group of people who undertake recreational fishing.

Healthy Parks
Healthy People