

**Matt
GUY MP**

Leader of the Opposition
Leader of the Liberal Party
Liberal Member for **Bulleen**

**Bill
TILLEY MP**

Shadow Minister for Regional Cities (including
Border Communities)
Shadow Minister for Decentralisation
Shadow Minister for Fishing and Boating
Liberal Member for **Benambra**

**REAL
SOLUTIONS
for all
Victorians.**

Real solutions for Victorian fishers

The Liberals and Nationals have today announced a clear plan to provide real solutions for Victorian fishers.

Whether it's the recreational fisher enjoying a sunny Sunday afternoon on the water, or our hard-working commercial fishers putting the freshest seafood on our plates, the fishing industry must be supported in order to thrive.

Our Plan will:

1. Ensure that 100 percent of marine, boating and fishing licence fees is hypothecated to improve facilities and maintain fishing stocks and river ecology.
 - It has been estimated that there would be more than \$40 million of revenue each year to invest in things like better boating facilities, jetties, and piers.
2. Centralise the management of boat ramps across Western Port and Port Phillip Bay.
 - Currently, there are some 43 public recreational boating facilities across this region managed by 24 different entities including councils, Parks Victoria and management committees. The mishmash of managers has led to frustration and boiled over into "ramp rage" with a lack of space for parking, unsafe boat ramps and a general lack of facilities.
 - A Matt Guy Liberals and Nationals Government would initiate discussions with relevant Councils and other recreational boating facility managers to transfer the management of Western Port Bay and Port Phillip Bay boat ramps and associated land and parking to Better Boating Victoria.
3. Introduce a new \$5 million Regional Councils Boat Ramp Fund to provide matched grants to regional Councils for local boat ramp maintenance.
4. Deliver \$1 million in new research funding to ensure that fish restocking programs are followed up and assessed within 12 months to determine their effectiveness and value for money.
5. Establish a \$30 million Fish and Platypus Habitat Restoration Fund to invest in marine, estuarine and freshwater habitat restoration throughout Victoria. This will ensure our fisheries are as healthy as possible, now and into the future with a dedicated fund that looks at improving river, estuary and marine health.

Leader of the Liberal Party, Matt Guy, said the Liberals and Nationals will support Victorian fishers.

“Victoria is home to some of Australia’s best fishing, from Lake Eildon, the Goulburn River and Port Phillip Bay – there is something for everyone,” Mr Guy said.

“Our plan is about better management of our boat ramps and infrastructure, and more support for our precious habitats.”

“A government I lead will encourage more Victorians to cast a line and experience the thrill of a catch.”

Shadow Minister for Fishing and Boating, Bill Tilley, said both recreational and commercial fishers would be supported by our plan.

“We know these are the most heavily used boat ramps in the state and boaters want a better deal,” Mr Tilley said.

“We need a common standard and our policy would harness the expertise of Better Boating Victoria to deliver efficiencies in the management of and safety at these boat ramps.

“Outside of this region there will be up to \$50,000 matched funding for boat ramp improvements across the state.”