

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Wednesday, 16 November 2022

MORE PIERS, JETTIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LITTLE ANGLERS

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will get more kids involved in fishing, deliver better boating and fishing infrastructure and improve Victoria's waterways to keep families out on the water for generations to come.

Labor will encourage more kids to learn to fish with a \$96 million package that will benefit families and benefit Victoria.

An investment of \$1.5 million will get 60,000 Little Anglers Kits to primary school aged kids in every corner of the state – helping kids learn about marine life, have fun with their families and boost vital jobs in regional communities.

The kits will set families up with everything they need to wet a line – with a fishing rod, tackle box and a *Kids' Guide To Fishing*, which includes information about where to go fishing, how to get in touch with local clubs and links to resources to get people into the sport.

We'll also support local fishing clubs – with \$1.2 million in grants to help them attract new members, encouraging more families to take up fishing.

Victoria's fishing community understands the importance of protecting the natural environment, making sure waterways are healthy and fish are protected – \$18.8 million will boost fish stock, including \$10 million to triple the size of the native fish hatchery at Arcadia, near Shepparton – making Victoria fully self-sufficient for fish stocking.

This includes \$5 million for the next major stage of works at Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery to rebuild the 80-year-old ponds and accelerate efforts to re-establish fish populations of Macquarie Perch and Trout Cod.

As well as \$2.5 million in habitat improvements to preserve marine, estuarine and freshwater fisheries, and support Victoria's first indigenous-run oyster farm – with a \$250,000 grant for the farm in Lakes Entrance.

And \$1 million will promote our state's aquaculture sector, helping the industry land new investment and grow local jobs.

A re-elected Labor Government will also invest in better fishing and boating infrastructure in every corner of the state, with \$74.5 million for maintaining and rebuilding local piers, jetties and boating facilities.

This includes \$22.1 million to improve 15 ramps, jetties and car parks across the state and \$12.4 million for upgrades at Tarago Reservoir, opening it up to motorised boats as well as recreational fishing.

Today's announcement includes projects previously announced such as, the \$40 million to rebuild the Dromana Pier, St Leonards Pier and the Warneet South and North Jetties, as well as \$7.2 million for ramp and car park upgrades at Lang Lang, Tooradin, Inverloch and the expansion of the Cowes Jetty.

The Labor Government has already worked hard to deliver better fishing and boating facilities on waterways all over the state, investing more than \$130 million in improvements and upgrades.

In 2018, we promised to make it cheaper and easier to get out on the water by abolishing parking and launch fees – and that's exactly what we've delivered, saving families up to \$315 each year on an annual parking permit.

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We also introduced the Better Boating Fund to ensure every dollar raised from boating registration and licence fees goes back to the communities that invest in these activities – putting more than \$30 million back into better boating initiatives every year.

Labor is doing what matters – supporting Victorian fishers and boaters to get out on the water and backing jobs right across our state.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

“Fishing and boating are great activities for the whole family – they provide relaxation, recreation and community connection while bringing in visitor dollars, vital to local communities and local jobs.”

“Only Labor will invest in Victorians’ favourite pastimes – because only Labor will do what matters.”

Quote attributable to Minister for Fishing and Boating Sonya Kilkenny

“A re-elected Labor Government will continue to back our state’s anglers and boaties – including young Victorians.”

Quote attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

“We’ll upgrade boat ramps, jetties and piers across the state, backing Victorian fishers, boaters, aquaculture businesses and tourism operators.”