



Victorian recreational boating strategy action plan

2021- 2022

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Overview

The Victorian Government has established the Better Boating Fund. The amount going into the Better Boating Fund will be the equivalent of all revenue generated from marine licences and vessel registration.

The recreational boating system is funded through the revenue collected from marine licences and vessel registration. Throughout 2020-21, the Victorian Government collected \$33.2 million in revenue from recreational vessel registration as well as marine licences. This revenue supports recreational boating by funding planning and upgrades, boating safety and education, compliance and enforcement and marine search and rescue.



2020-21 boating revenue

Throughout 2020-2021, the Victorian Government collected approx \$33.2 million in revenue from vessel registration as well as marine licences. This has been collected from the registration of 217,187 vessels, as well as issuing 173,063 marine licences throughout 2020-21.

The Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy (2021-2030) has been developed to identify opportunities to improve the boating experience across Victoria. It has also been established to deliver the following vision:

Victorian boaters will be provided with a better boating experience through the provision of boating facilities that perform to a high standard, have adequate capacity, are well maintained, are safe and provide improved accessibility for all.

The Strategy will be delivered through a series of annual action plans.



\$33.2m

Throughout 2020-21, the Victorian Government collected **\$33.2m** in revenue from **recreational vessel registration as well as marine licences**



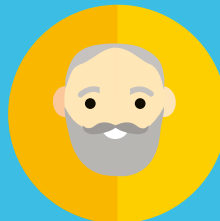
Licence and registration revenue 2020-21

- **Licensing:** \$18.5m
- **Registration:** \$14.7m
- Total:** \$33.2m



217,187

Number of
vessels registered
in Victoria in 2020-21

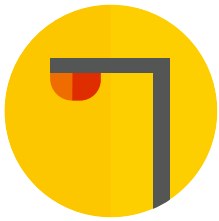


173,063

Number of marine
licences issued
in Victoria in 2020-21

Action plan at a glance

Enhanced facilities

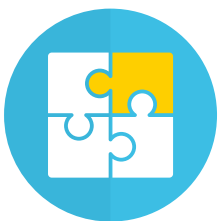


Planning and construction of new boating facilities



Develop design guidelines for boat ramp facilities

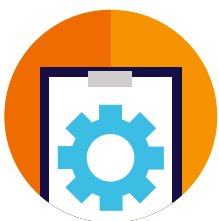
Management and maintenance of facilities



Asset management framework



Fee removal



Develop maintenance guidelines

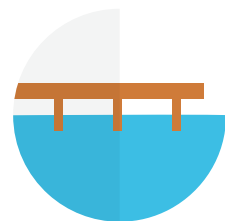


Develop structural maintenance grant program

Boating Destinations



Develop a Victorian coastal 'Sail Trail'



Additional berths and moorings



Seek opportunities to provide free public berths at marinas

Improved access and navigation



All abilities access

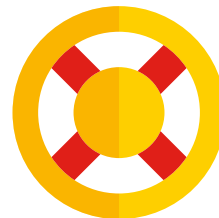


Waterway access

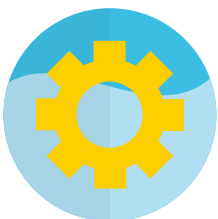
Safer waterways



Emergency response -
Marine Radio Victoria



Marine Search
and Rescue



Coordinated
dredging program/
dredging grants



Partnering with
private facilities

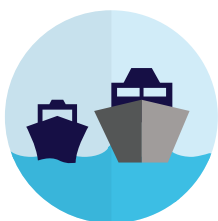


State-wide safety
initiatives



Boating Vic
camera expansion

Boating promotion



Boating promotion
program



Victorian boat ramp
etiquette guide



Boating experience
and behaviour survey



Improved PWC
operator behaviour



Boat 'launching' clinic



Improved licensing

Enhanced facilities map





Legend

- Progress concept designs - existing facilities
- Progress concept designs - new facilities
- Progress detailed design
- Project delivery - new or upgraded facilities
- Boating destination improvements



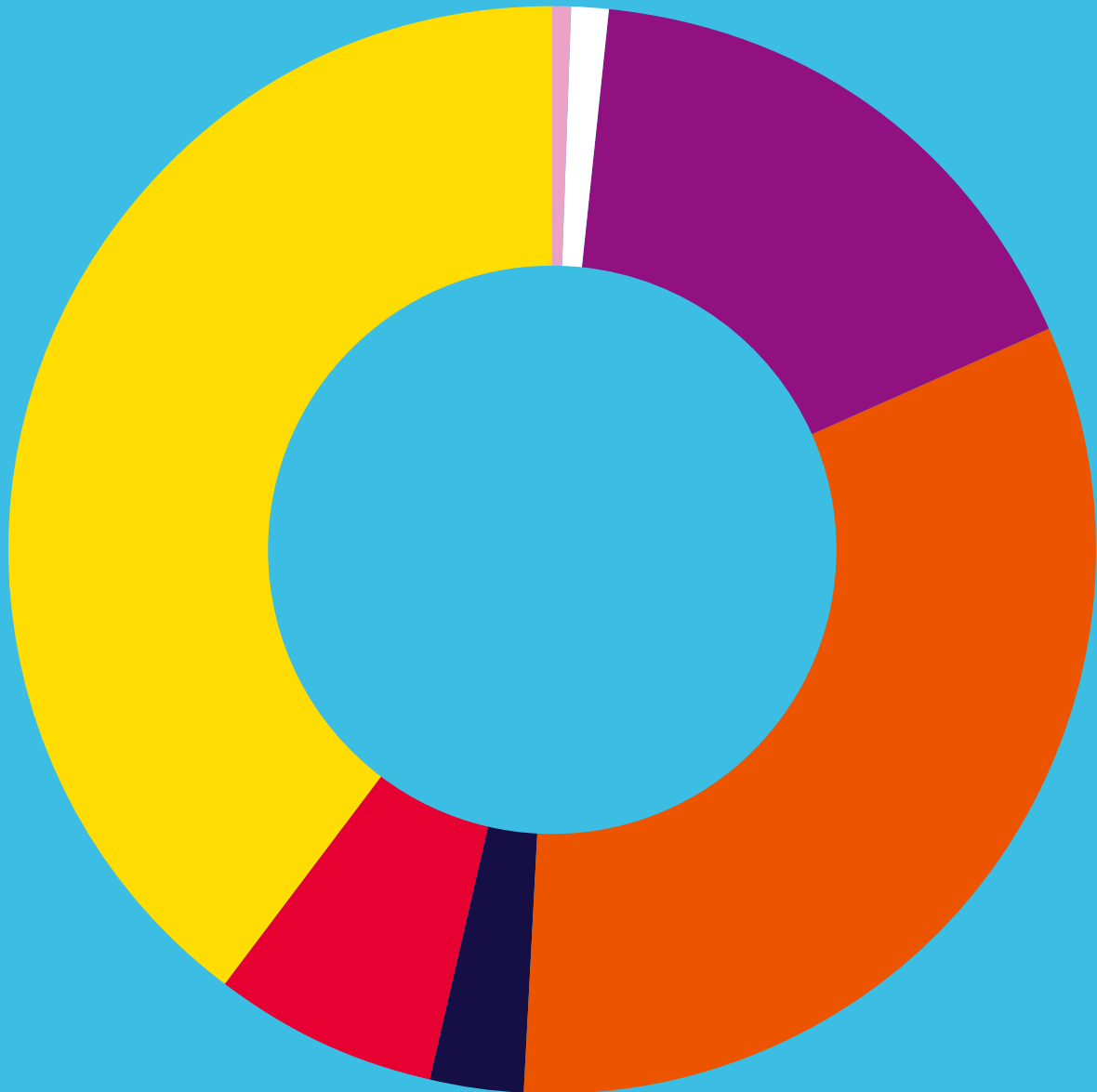
Boating priorities for 2021-22

This is the first action plan which has been developed to commence the delivery of the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy. Key priorities for the allocation of funding will include:

- 1** Progressing and maturing the development of boat ramp upgrades for future construction.
- 2** Improving maintenance of facilities and supporting asset managers of public facilities.
- 3** Improving access on water through dredging and also by improving all-abilities access.
- 4** Continued support for boating safety and marine search and rescue services.



Priorities for funding have been identified in the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy. Those projects and programs identified for funding in this Action Plan have been prioritised based on boating demand, project readiness, boating safety needs and equity of distribution of funds across regional Victoria as well as Port Phillip and Western Port.



Funding allocation for 2021-22 has been distributed across the following areas:

- Safer Waterways:** \$13,380,000*
- Enhanced Facilities:** \$10,025,000
- Maintenance and Management:** \$5,600,000
- Improved Access:** \$2,250,000
- Boating Destinations:** \$950,000
- Improved Data:** \$350,000
- Boating Promotion:** \$245,000

*This includes funding for the administration of marine licensing and vessel registration.

01

Management and maintenance of boating facilities

To **enhance** the Victorian boating experience by **supporting and improving the maintenance** of our public facilities.



Asset management framework



Fee removal



Develop maintenance guidelines



Develop structural maintenance grant program

| No. | Action | Action description |
|-----|--|---|
| 1.1 | Asset management framework | Commence development of an asset management framework for boating facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port |
| 1.2 | Develop maintenance guidelines | Prepare maintenance guidelines for boat ramp facilities |
| 1.3 | Develop structural maintenance grant program | Develop a structural maintenance program to support asset managers at public boat ramps |
| 1.4 | Fee removal | Provide funding for removal of fees at public boat ramps that previously charged launching and parking fees |



02

Enhanced facilities

To **enhance** the Victorian boating experience by continuing to **invest in renewing and building new boating facilities**.



Planning and construction of new boating facilities



Develop design guidelines for boat ramp facilities

| No. | Action | Action description |
|-----|---|---|
| 2.1 | Plan for new boating facilities in the Goulburn Broken region Goulburn Broken | Commence planning for new boat ramp on lower Goulburn River, in the vicinity of Shepparton 10 Commence planning for new boat ramp at Howqua inlet 33 |

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 2.2 | <p>Progress detailed planning for upgrade and renewed facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port</p> <p>Port Phillip and Western Port</p> | <p>Progress detailed design and approvals for upgraded facilities at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limeburners 13 • Avalon 14 • Werribee South 15 • Lang Lang 16 • Stony Point 17 • Cowes 18 • Kirk Point 19 • Altona (car park) 20 |
| 2.3 | <p>Commence planning upgrade and renewed facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port</p> <p>Port Phillip and Western Port</p> | <p>Prepare concept plans to inform future upgrades at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mornington - Fishermans Beach 1 • Mornington - Schnapper Point ramps 2 • Cannons Creek 3 • St Leonards 4 • Capel Sound 5 • Tooradin (car parking) 6 |
| 2.4 | <p>Progress planning for upgrade and renewed facilities in Anderson Inlet</p> <p>South Gippsland</p> | <p>Progress detailed design and approvals for upgraded facilities at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahers Landing 21 • Inverloch 22 |
| 2.5 | <p>Progress planning for upgrade Cape Conran boat ramp</p> <p>East Gippsland</p> | <p>Progress detailed design and approvals for upgraded facilities at Cape Conran 23</p> |
| 2.6 | <p>Commence planning for new facilities</p> <p>Port Phillip and Western Port</p> | <p>Undertake investigations into feasibility of a Patterson River expansion or nearby area 11</p> |
| 2.7 | <p>Plan for improvements to north central water storages</p> <p>North Central</p> | <p>Commence planning for improvements at Laanecoorie 7</p> |
| 2.8 | <p>Plan for improvements to Lake Buffalo</p> <p>North East</p> | <p>Commence planning for improvements to car park and boat ramp at Lake Buffalo 9</p> |
| 2.9 | <p>Plan for improvements to Murray River</p> <p>Wimmera Mallee</p> | <p>Commence planning for improvements Redcliff and Murray River - Karadoc Ramp 8</p> |

| No. | Action | Action description |
|------|---|--|
| 2.10 | New boating facilities on Maribyrnong River Port Phillip and Western Port | Plan for a new boat ramp on the Maribyrnong River 24 |
| 2.11 | Upgrade Warrnambool boat ramp South West | Upgrade Warrnambool boat ramp 25 |
| 2.12 | Upgrade Lake Bullen Merri boat ramp South West | Upgrade Lake Bullen Merri ramp 26 |
| 2.13 | Improvements to Lake Toolondo Wimmera Mallee | Formalise the south west ramp car park and boat ramp 32 |
| 2.14 | Improvements to Rocklands Reservoir Wimmera Mallee | Formalise the earthen ramp at Hynes and including access track, boat trailer parking and boat ramp 27 |
| 2.15 | Improvements to Lake Lonsdale Wimmera Mallee | Additional boat ramp launching lane at Lake Lonsdale Northern Boat Ramp 28 |
| 2.16 | Improvements to North East River Ramps North East | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitta Mitta River - Pigs Point, Tallangatta South • Ovens River - Peechelba • Ovens River - McLaughlins Bend, Peechelba East • Murray River d'stream of Wodonga (Richardsons Reserve) • Murray River d'stream of Wodonga (Doolans Reserve) • Murray River d'stream of Wodonga |

Supporting delivery of future upgrades

| No. | Action | Action description |
|------|---------------------------|--|
| 2.17 | Develop Design Guidelines | Prepare Victorian design guidelines for boat ramp facilities |



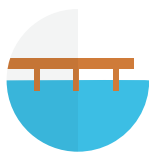
03

More boating destinations

To **enhance** the Victorian boating experience by continuing to **invest in destination locations**.



Develop a Victorian coastal 'Sail Trail'



Additional berths and moorings



Seek opportunities to provide free public berths at marinas



| No. | Action | Action description |
|-----|---|--|
| 3.1 | Berths and moorings at Ocean Grove South West | Install new pontoon at Ocean Grove ²⁹ |
| 3.2 | Destination Jetties at Barrier Landing East Gippsland | Install additional pontoon/jetty at Barrier Landing ³⁰ |
| 3.3 | Public berths in marinas | Seek opportunities to provide for some free public berths at marinas |
| 3.4 | Develop a Victorian coastal 'Sail Trail' | Identify and progress planning for a Sail Trail |
| 3.5 | Progress planning for new destination facility at Frankston Port Phillip and Western Port | Commence planning for Frankston safe harbour |

04

Improved access and navigation

To **enhance** the Victorian boating experience by providing for **improved access** and **navigation**.



All abilities access



Waterway access



Coordinated
dredging program/
dredging grants



Partnering with
private facilities

| No. | Action | Action description |
|-----|------------------------------------|--|
| 4.1 | Coordinated dredging program | Develop a dredging program for coordinating dredging across Port Phillip and Western Port |
| 4.2 | Dredging grants | Develop and provide a one-off grant program to support asset managers who require dredging at boat ramps |
| 4.3 | All abilities access | <p>Install all abilities access at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hastings • Port Welshpool • Lakes Entrance |
| 4.4 | Waterway access | <p>Provide for improved waterway access at select locations which will include elements of hydrographic survey, review of vessel rules and/or aids to navigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cairn Curran • Curdies River • Bridgewater Lakes • Lake Watchem • Barwon River • Lake Burrumbeet • Goulburn River and Lake Nagambie • Lake Wendouree • Lake Lascelles • Green Lake • Wimmera River • Lake Lonsdale • Lake Fyans • Gippsland Lakes • Port Phillip and Western Port |
| 4.5 | Partnering with private facilities | Seek opportunities for overflow car parking and/or boat launching at private facilities |

05

Safer waterways

To **improve waterway and boating safety** by investing in marine search and rescue and boating safety and education.



Emergency response -
Marine Radio Victoria



Marine Search
and Rescue



State-wide safety
initiatives



Boating Vic
camera expansion

| No. | Action | Action description |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|
| 5.1 | Emergency response | Ensure that Marine Radio Victoria continues to operate and review effectiveness of the current contract |
| 5.2 | State-wide safety initiatives* | <p>In accordance with Maritime Safety Victoria's 5-year Safety Campaign and Action Plan, deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating safety education • Boating Vic enhancements • Review and revision of waterway zones. • Management of state significant coastal Aids to Navigation, unmanaged waterway Aids to Navigation and signage • High risk vessel inspections • Support for industry lead courtesy rider program, targeting PWC's |
| 5.3 | Marine Search and Rescue | Support our Marine Search and Rescue teams by funding recruitment, training, equipment, utilities, fuel and maintenance |
| 5.4 | Boating Vic camera expansion | <p>Install new Boating Vic cameras at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Fairy - Griffiths St Ramp • Lake Eppalock - Kimbolton Ramp • Apollo Bay - Breakwater Rd Ramp |

*This includes funding for the administration of marine licensing and vessel registration.

06

Boating promotion

To **enhance** the Victorian boating experience by promoting boating across Victoria.



Boating promotion program



Victorian boat ramp etiquette guide



Boat 'launching' clinic

| No. | Action | Action description |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---|
| 6.1 | Boating promotion | Develop a boating promotion program that highlights boating experience across regional Victoria |
| 6.2 | Boating promotion | Hold a Fishing and Boating Tourism event at the 2022 Victorian Boat Show |
| 6.3 | Deliver a 'boat launching' clinic | Deliver and promote a boat launching clinic |
| 6.4 | Victorian boat ramp etiquette guide | Deliver a Victorian boat ramp etiquette guide |

07

Improved data and other reforms



Boating experience and behaviour survey



Improved PWC operator behaviour



Improved licensing

| No. | Action | Action description |
|-----|---|---|
| 7.1 | Boater experience and behaviour survey | Commission a boater experience survey |
| 7.2 | Improved licensing | Explore a three-stage licensing reform program to strengthen the current training and assessment procedures with a focus on reviewing PWC endorsement |
| 7.3 | Improved Personal Watercraft (PWC) operator behaviour | Maritime Safety Victoria will develop and deliver a program addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PWC Education and Enforcement • PWC compliance cameras pilot |

Public reporting

In accordance with the *Marine Safety Act 2010*, there are public reporting requirements that provide for accountability in relation to the Better Boating Fund. The Department of Transport will publish a report by 1 October each year on the following:

- revenue generated in marine licence and vessel registration fees
- amount of money that was deposited into the Better Boating Fund
- amount of money that was paid from the fund in the preceding financial year
- high level description of the projects and programs that have been funded
- inclusion of the previous comparative year for revenue, amount of money into the fund and amount that was spent



The first public report will be produced by 1 October 2022 to address the requirements identified above.



