

# Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy Action Plan 2022–2023



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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 2021–22, the Victorian Government collected **\$32,865,742** 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.



## 2021–22 boating revenue

Throughout 2021–2022, the Victorian Government collected **\$32,865,742** in revenue from vessel registration as well as marine licences. This was collected from the registration of 222,012 vessels as well as issuing 106,269 marine licences.

The Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy (2021–2030) identifies opportunities to improve the boating experience across Victoria and 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. This is the second action plan that has been prepared since the inception of the Better Boating Fund in 2021.



# \$32.8m

Throughout 2021–22, the Victorian Government collected **\$32,865,742** in revenue from **recreational vessel registration and marine licences**



**License and registration revenue 2021–22**

- **Licensing:** \$17,911,638
  - **Registration:** \$14,954,104
- Total:** \$32,865,742



**222,012**

Number of  
vessels registered  
in Victoria in 2021–22



**106,269**

Number of marine  
licences issued  
in Victoria in 2021–22

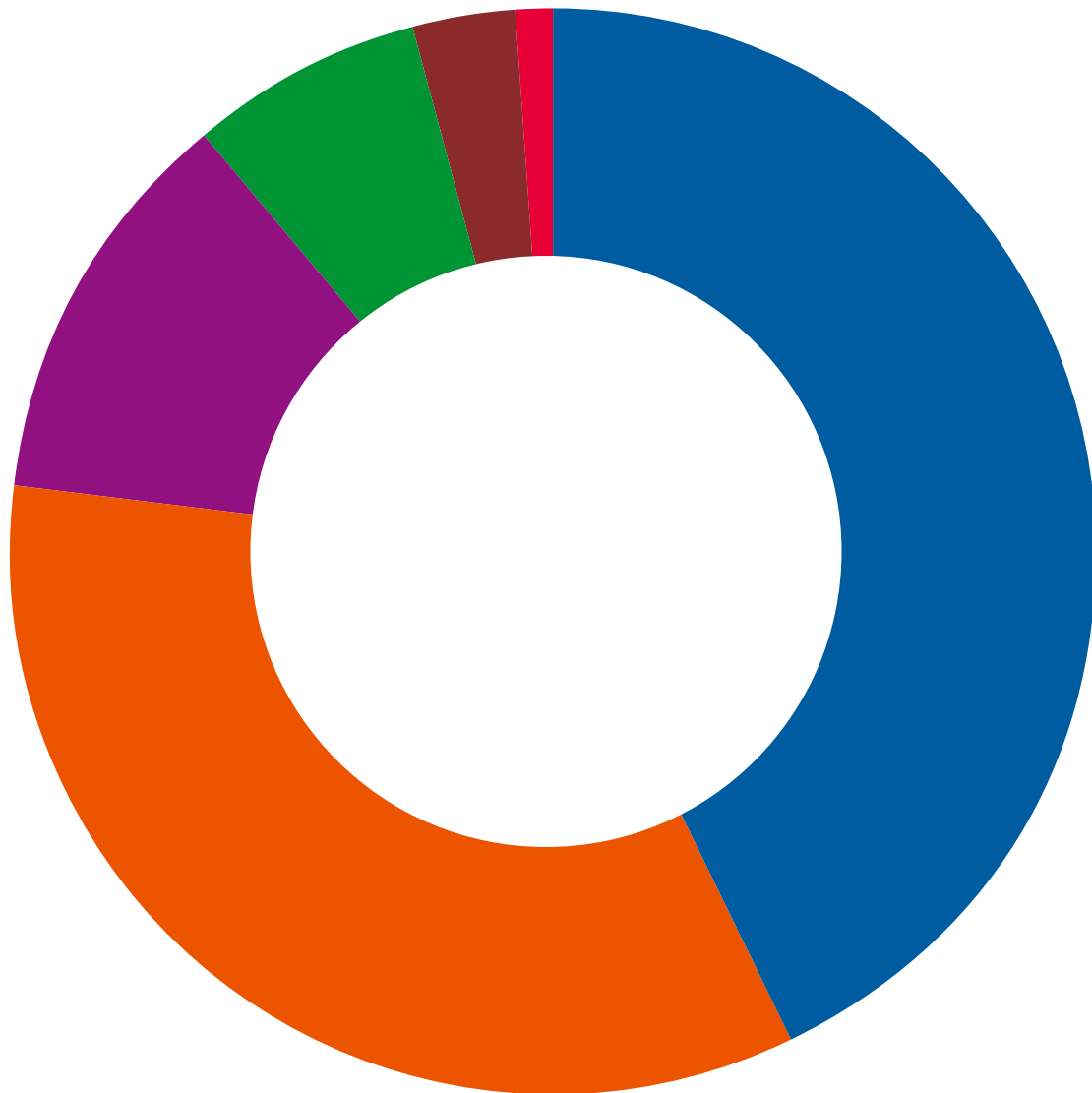
# Boating priorities for 2022–23

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

- 1.** Progressing the development and subsequent construction of boat ramp upgrades
- 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

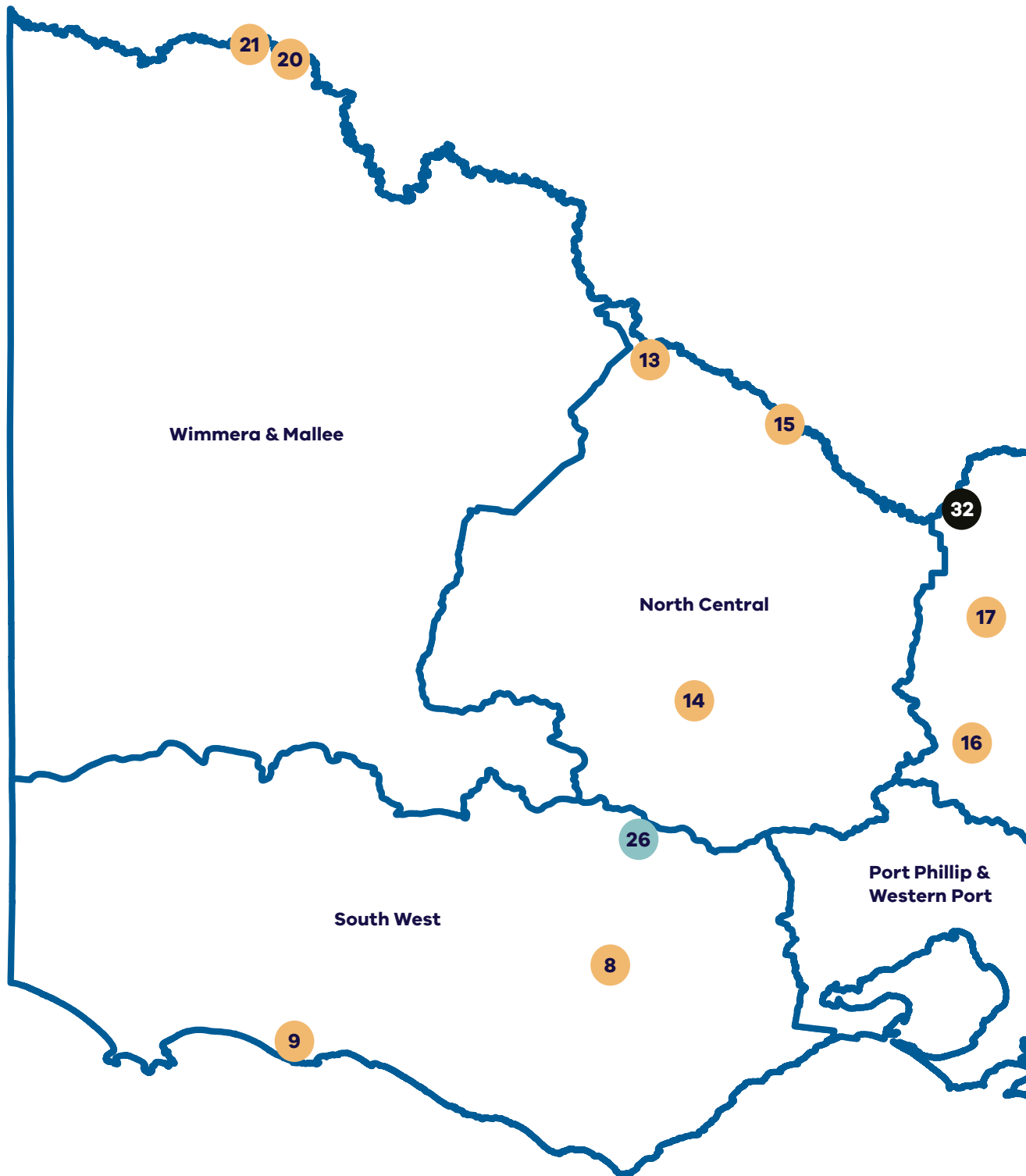
Priorities for funding have been identified in the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy. Those projects and programs identified for funding in this Action Plan have been prioritised based on boating demand, project readiness, boating safety needs and equity of distribution of funds across regional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

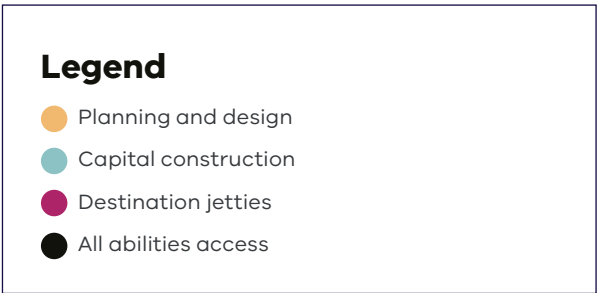
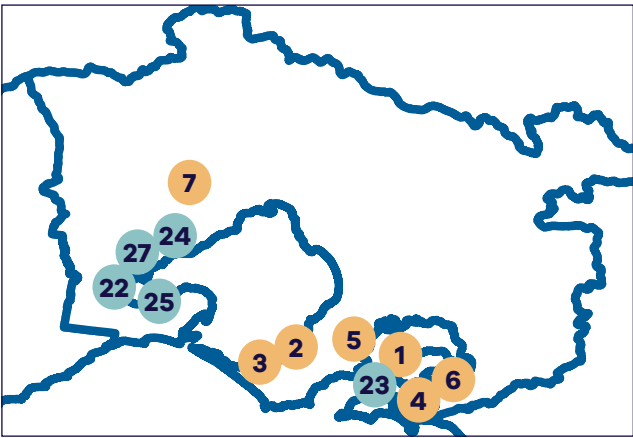




Funding allocation for 2022–23 has been distributed across the following areas:

- **Enhanced facilities:** 43%
- **Safer waterways:** 34%
- **Management and maintenance of boating facilities:** 12%
- **Improved access and navigation:** 7%
- **More boating destinations:** 3%
- **Boating promotion:** 1%
- **Improved data and other reforms:** <1%





# 1.0

## Management and maintenance of boating facilities

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



*Removal of fees at public boat ramps*



*Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance Program*



*Asset Manager Forums*

No.	Action	Action description
1.1	Removal of fees at public boat ramps	Provide funding for removal of fees at public boat ramps that previously charged launching and parking fees
1.2	Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance Program	Provide funding for the Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance program to support asset managers at public boat ramps with maintenance of their facilities
1.3	Asset Manager Forums	Establish quarterly asset manager forums to facilitate and support asset managers to maintain boating facilities across Victoria

## 2.0

# Enhanced facilities

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



*Prepare designs to inform future upgrades*



*Renewing existing facilities and building new ones*



*Progress staged construction*

*Better Boating Victoria has established a delivery model whereby the feedback of boaters is central to the upgrades of boating facilities. This consultation occurs at the commencement of the design process and continues until construction has been completed.*

*The time to upgrade a facility can take a couple of years to complete, pending approvals.*

*The approval requirements for projects can include local ports and waterway manager requirements (e.g. Works Permit), Marine and Coastal Act Consents and all necessary background studies and Cultural Heritage Management Plans.*

### Progressing delivery of boating projects



No.	Action	Action description
2.1	Planning and design upgrades/ new facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port <b>(Port Phillip and Western Port)</b>	Provide funding for planning and design for new ramps and future upgrades of boating facilities at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French Island – Tankerton <b>1</b></li> <li>• Anthony’s Nose (Dromana) <b>2</b></li> <li>• Rye – wave protection <b>3</b></li> <li>• Newhaven <b>4</b></li> <li>• Stony Point <b>5</b></li> <li>• Corinella <b>6</b></li> <li>• Melton Reservoir <b>7</b></li> </ul>
2.2	Planning and design upgrades across the South West <b>(South West)</b>	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Tooliorook jetties replacement <b>8</b></li> <li>• Port Fairy <b>9</b></li> </ul>
2.3	Planning and design upgrades across South and Central Gippsland <b>(South and Central Gippsland)</b>	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Rock Lake <b>10</b></li> <li>• Lake Glenmaggie <b>11</b></li> </ul>
2.4	Planning and design upgrades across East Gippsland <b>(East Gippsland)</b>	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakes Entrance North Arm Apex car park <b>12</b></li> </ul>
2.5	Planning and design upgrades across the North Central <b>(North Central)</b>	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Boga <b>13</b></li> <li>• Tullaroop Reservoir <b>14</b></li> <li>• Murray River – Gunbower <b>15</b></li> </ul>
2.6	Planning and design upgrades across the Goulburn Broken <b>(Goulburn Broken)</b>	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seymour – Goulburn River <b>16</b></li> <li>• Shepparton – Goulburn River <b>17</b></li> <li>• Howqua Inlet <b>18</b></li> </ul>
2.7	Planning and design upgrades across the North East <b>(North East)</b>	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Hume <b>19</b></li> </ul>

No.	Action	Action description
2.8	Planning and design upgrades across the Wimmera and Mallee <b>(Wimmera and Mallee)</b>	<p>Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Murray River – Mildura Karadoc <b>20</b></li> <li>• Murray River – Mildura - Red Cliffs <b>21</b></li> </ul>
2.9	Commence construction at facilities across Victoria	<p>Provide funding to progress construction of boating facility upgrades at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limeburners car park <b>22</b></li> <li>• Cowes <b>23</b></li> <li>• Kirk Point <b>24</b></li> <li>• Clifton Springs car park <b>25</b></li> <li>• Lake Burrumbeet <b>26</b></li> <li>• Avalon <b>27</b></li> <li>• Mahers Landing <b>28</b></li> </ul>



## 3.0

# More boating destinations

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



*Destination jetties*

No.	Action	Action description
3.1	Destination Jetties	<p>Provide funding for upgrades of boating facilities at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gabo Island Jetty – Planning and design <sup>29</sup></li> <li>Raymond Island – Additional berths <sup>30</sup></li> <li>Lakes Entrance – Additional berths – Cunninghame Arm <sup>31</sup></li> </ul>



## 4.0

# Improved access and navigation

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



*All abilities access*



*Dredging grants and programs*



*Waterway management*



*Scoping investigations*

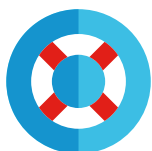
No.	Action	Action description
4.1	Port Phillip and Western Port Dredging Program	Progress options for a coordinated maintenance dredging program at key boating facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port
4.2	Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program	Provide dredging grants to support asset managers who require dredging at boat ramps
4.3	All abilities access	Develop detailed designs to facilitate all abilities access at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Park Echuca <sup>32</sup></li> <li>• Blue Rock Lake <sup>33</sup></li> </ul>

No.	Action	Action description
4.4	Funding support for waterway managers	<p>Provide funding grants to waterway managers to support the development of waterway rules, safety signage and installation and maintenance of aids to navigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barwon Port</li> <li>• Barwon River</li> <li>• Bridgewater lakes</li> <li>• Curdies River</li> <li>• Gippsland</li> <li>• Goulburn River and Lake Nagambie</li> <li>• Green Lake</li> <li>• Lake Eildon</li> <li>• Lake Lascelles</li> <li>• Lake Merran</li> <li>• Lake Watchem</li> <li>• Lake Wendouree</li> <li>• Port Philip and Western Port</li> <li>• Tchum Lake</li> <li>• Waranga Basin</li> <li>• Yarra River</li> </ul>

## 5.0

# Safer waterways

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



**Marine Search and Rescue**



**Boating Vic Cameras**



**Marine Radio Victoria**



**Personal watercraft training program**

No.	Action	Action description
5.1	Emergency Management Victoria: Marine Search and Rescue (MSaR) Funds	Provide funding to Emergency Management Victoria to support Marine Search and Rescue teams by funding recruitment, training, equipment, utilities, fuel, and maintenance.
5.2	Emergency Management Victoria Safety initiatives	Fund Emergency Management Victoria to support Marine Search and Rescue training initiatives.
5.3	Safe Transport Victoria: Boating safety	Fund Safe Transport Victoria for the regulation and administration of recreational marine activities including high risk vessel inspections, recreational vessel compliance, boating safety education, waterway management, approval of waterway rules and boating activity. The funding will also provide for the administration of recreational marine licencing and vessel registration.
5.4	Installation of additional Boating Vic cameras at boat ramps across Victoria	Installation of new Boating Vic cameras at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waranga Basin</li> <li>• Warneet</li> <li>• Manns Beach</li> <li>• Shaving Point (Metung)</li> </ul>

No.	Action	Action description
5.5	Providing continued funding to support the Marine Radio Victoria emergency response network	Ongoing funding of the Marine Radio Victoria emergency response network across Victoria to respond to emergency distress calls. Planning will also be undertaken to prepare for the future Marine Radio Victoria contract.
5.6	Installation of electronic variable messaging signs to promote boating safety	Installation of a variable message sign at Patterson River to feature boating safety messaging.
5.7	Delivery of a Personal Watercraft (PWC) education campaign to promote safer riding	Develop and launch a campaign and PWC rider clinics to improve PWC operator behaviour and associated safety, particularly across Port Phillip.



## 6.0

# Boating promotion

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



*Boating promotion campaign*



*Boating trails*



*Trailer reversing clinic*



*Improved marine training*

No.	Action	Action description
6.1	Delivery of boating promotion initiatives to promote the boating experience across Victoria	Delivery of a boating promotion program that highlights the boating experience across regional Victoria
6.2	Delivery of new cruising/boating trails to promote boating in regional Victoria	Plan, deliver and promote new boating trails in regional Victoria which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Eildon</li> <li>• Gippsland Lakes</li> </ul>
6.3	Delivery of boat trailer reversing clinics	Delivery of boat trailer reversing clinics to improve the boating experience
6.4	Delivery of options to improved marine skills training to support the boating sector	Delivery of a feasibility assessment into improved coordination of skills training for marine boat builders, trimmers and mechanics to address the current skills shortage across Victoria

## 7.0

# Improved data



*Improved  
data sharing*

No.	Action	Action description
7.1	Improved data sharing	Delivery of a feasibility assessment into options to improve data sharing for on water compliance agencies



## 8.0

# Public reporting

In accordance with the Marine Safety Act, 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:

- a. Revenue generated in marine licence and vessel registration fees
- b. Amount of money that was deposited into the Better Boating Fund
- c. Amount of money that was paid from the fund in the preceding financial year
- d. High level description of the projects and programs that have been funded
- e. Inclusion of the previous comparative year for revenue, amount of money into the fund and amount that was spent.



**A public report will be produced by 1st October 2023 to address the requirements identified above.**

