

# Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy Action Plan 2023–2024



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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 2022-23, the Victoria Government collected **\$36,597,108** 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.



## 2022–23 boating revenue

Throughout 2022-2023, the Victorian Government collected **\$36,597,108** in revenue from vessel registration as well as marine licences. This was collected from the registration of **216,994** vessels as well as issuing **122,466** marine licences.

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 a 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 third action plan that has been prepared since the inception of the Better Boating Fund in 2021.



# \$36.5m

Throughout 2022–23, the Victorian Government collected **\$36,597,108** in revenue from **recreational vessel registration and marine licences**



**Licence and registration revenue 2022–23**

- **Registration:** \$15,039,040
- **Licensing:** \$21,558,068
- Total:** \$36,597,108



**216,994**

Number of vessels registered  
in Victoria in 2022–23



**122,466**

Number of marine licences  
issued in Victoria in 2022–23

# Boating priorities for 2023-24

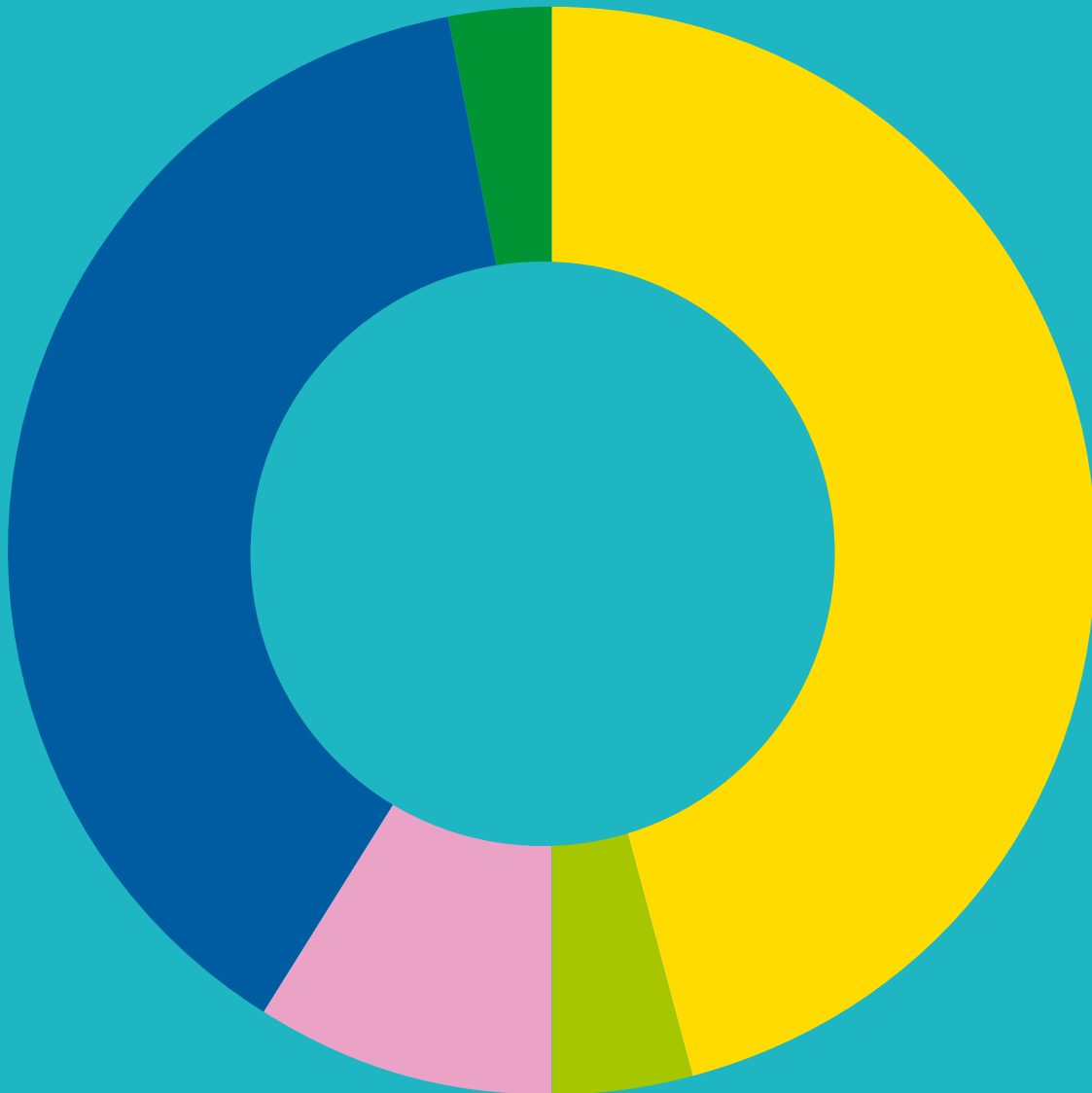
This is the third action plan which has been developed to support the delivery of the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy. Key priorities for the allocation of funding will include:

- 1.** Progressing the development and subsequent construction of boat ramp upgrades, including recently-announced election commitments
- 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 and the 'More Piers, Jetties and Opportunities for Little Anglers' election commitment.

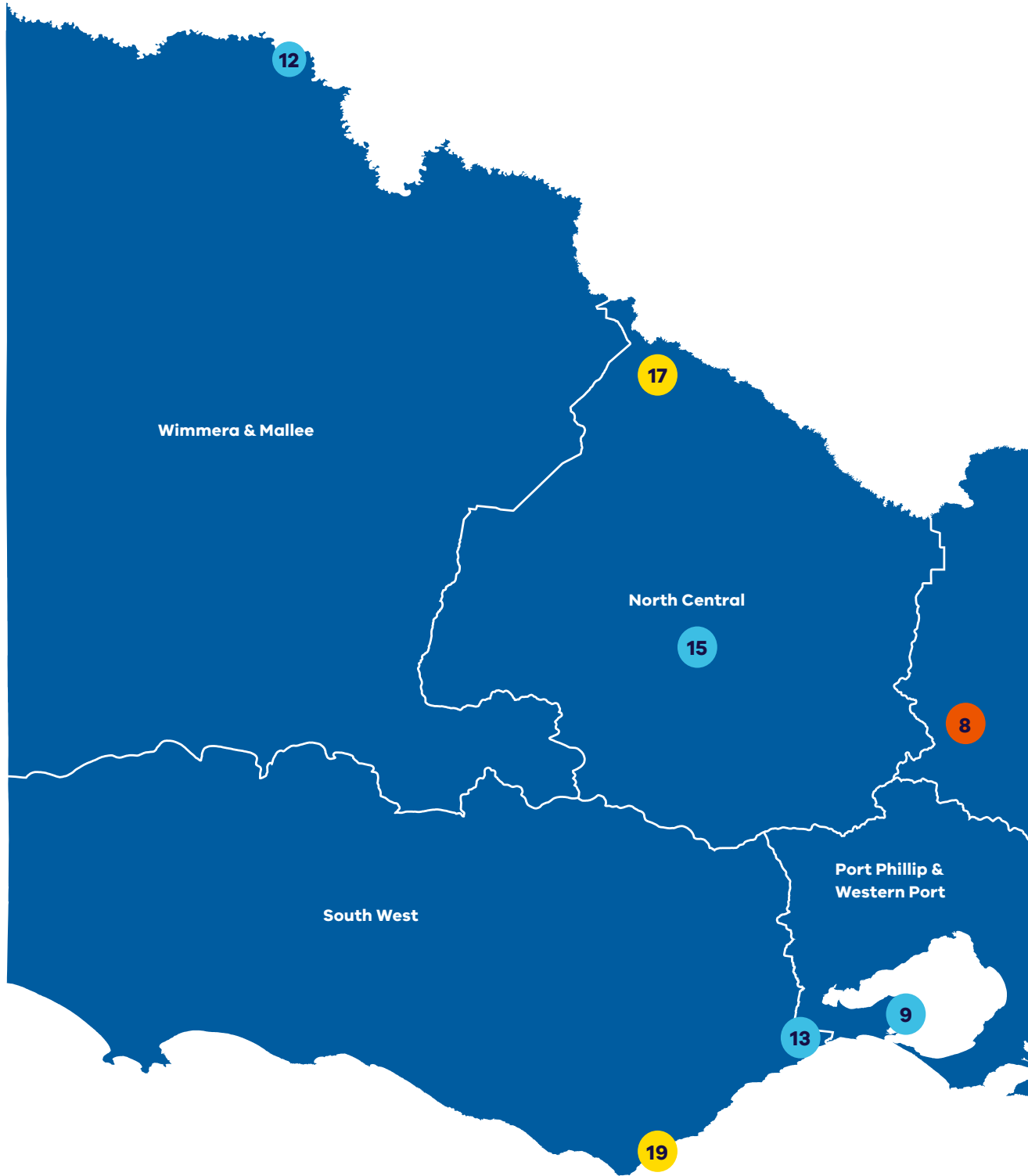
The projects and programs identified for funding in this Action Plan have been prioritised based on election commitment, boating demand, project readiness, boating safety needs and equity of distribution of funds across regional Victoria as well as Port Phillip and Western Port.



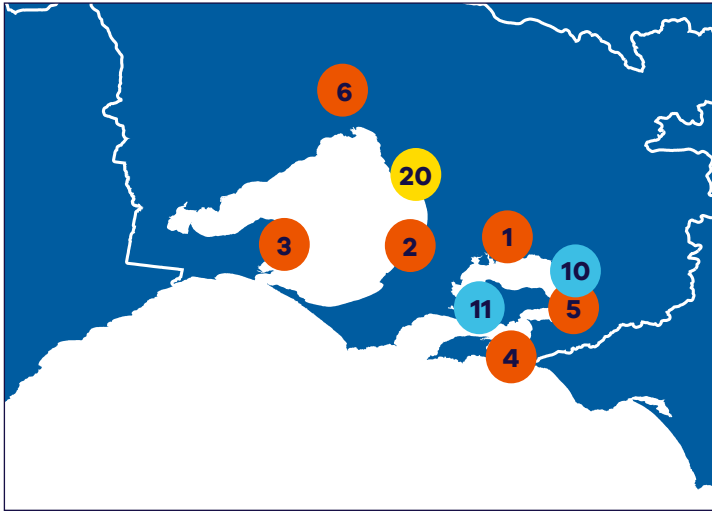


Funding allocation for 2023–24 has been distributed across the following areas:

- **Enhanced facilities:** 46%
- **Safer waterways:** 38%
- **Management and maintenance of boating facilities:** 9%
- **Improved access and navigation:** 4%
- **Waterway management:** 3%
- **Boating promotion:** <1%

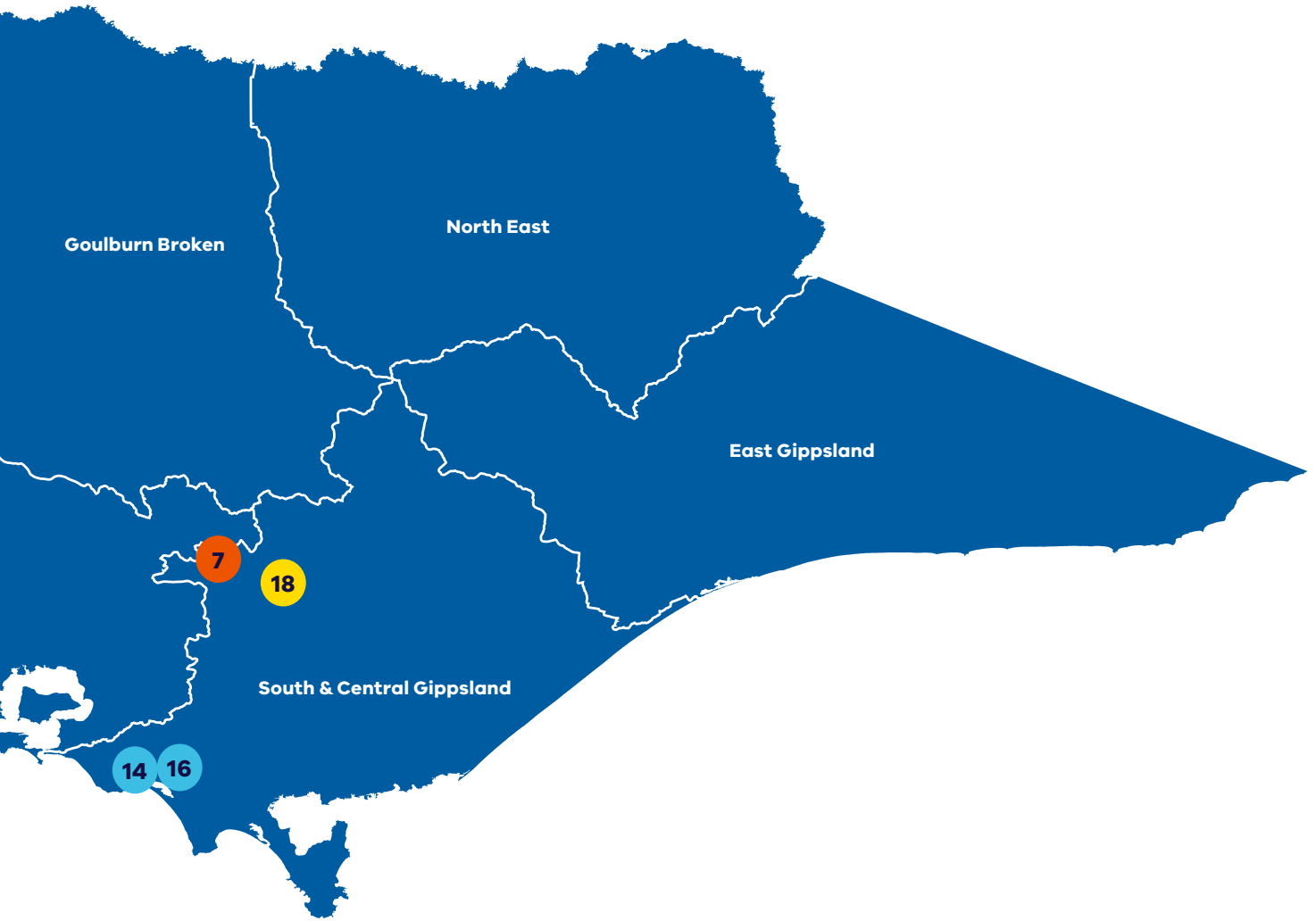






**Legend**

- Planning and design
- Capital construction
- All abilities access



# 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*



*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	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*



*Renew existing facilities and build new ones*



*Progress staged construction*

No.	Action	Action description
2.1	Planning and design upgrades across Port Phillip and Western Port	<p>Provide funding for planning and design for new ramps and future upgrades to progress the boating project pipeline including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tooradin <b>1</b></li> <li>• Mornington (Schnapper Point) <b>2</b></li> <li>• St Leonards <b>3</b></li> <li>• Newhaven <b>4</b></li> <li>• Grantville <b>5</b></li> <li>• Maribyrnong <b>6</b></li> </ul>
2.2	Planning and design upgrades across South and Central Gippsland	<p>Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tarago Reservoir to DEECA for feasibility of petrol motors <b>7</b></li> <li>• Tarago Reservoir for commencement of planning and design of boat ramp <b>7</b></li> </ul>

No.	Action	Action description
2.3	Planning and design upgrades across the Goulburn Broken	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seymour <b>8</b></li> </ul>
2.4	Commence construction at facilities across Victoria	Provide funding to progress construction of boating facility upgrades at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Leonards <b>9</b></li> <li>• Lang Lang <b>10</b></li> <li>• Tankerton <b>11</b></li> <li>• Mildura – Redcliffs <b>12</b></li> <li>• Torquay Fishermans Beach car park <b>13</b></li> <li>• Inverloch <b>14</b></li> <li>• Laanecoorie <b>15</b></li> <li>• Mahers Landing (civil works) <b>16</b></li> </ul>
2.5	Construction contingencies and project management	Construction contingencies and project management



## 3.0 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*

No.	Action	Action description
3.1	Port Phillip and Western Port Dredging Program	Progress Expression of Interest for a coordinated maintenance dredging program at key boating facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port
3.2	Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program	Provide dredging grants to support asset managers who require dredging at boat ramps
3.3	All abilities access	Delivery of all abilities access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Boga <b>17</b></li> <li>• Blue Rock Lake <b>18</b></li> </ul> Hansa Crane installation at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apollo Bay <b>19</b></li> <li>• Mordialloc <b>20</b></li> </ul>

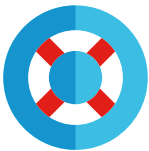
No.	Action	Action description
3.4	Waterway Management	<p>Funding to waterway managers to support the development of waterway rules, installation and maintenance of aids to navigation and safety signage, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barwon River / Port</li><li>• Gippsland</li><li>• Goulburn River / Lake Nagambie</li><li>• Port Philip and Western Port</li><li>• Yarra River</li><li>• Lake Charm</li><li>• Kangaroo Lake</li><li>• Green Lake – Corop</li><li>• Lake Nillahcootie</li><li>• Lake Hume</li><li>• Melton</li><li>• Blue Rock Lake</li></ul>



# 4.0

## Safer waterways

To **improve waterway and 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
4.1	Emergency Management Victoria: Marine Search and Rescue (MSaR) Funds	Support our marine search and rescue teams by funding recruitment, training, equipment, utilities, fuel and maintenance
4.2	Safe Transport Victoria – Marine Safety Victoria – Boating safety	Regulation and administration of recreational marine activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of recreational marine licencing and vessel registration with VicRoads</li> <li>• High risk vessel inspections and recreational boating compliance checks in line with Marine Safety Act and Regulations. Targeted (high risk) vessel inspections on coastal, enclosed and inland waters</li> <li>• Boating safety education including communication campaigns such as Maritime Back to Basics campaign and a Personal Watercraft safety (summer 23/24 readiness) campaign</li> <li>• Waterway management and safety management of navigational aids, approval and audit of waterway rules, and boating activity exemptions</li> </ul>

No.	Action	Action description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterway Safety Monitoring System and Boating Vic Application enhancements</li> <li>• New camera installs at coastal entry points - Mallacoota, Portland, Warrnambool and Barwon Heads</li> </ul>
4.3	Boating Vic Cameras	Install cameras at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cowes</li> <li>• Mahers Landing</li> <li>• Kirk Point</li> <li>• Avalon</li> <li>• Lang Lang</li> </ul>
4.4	Marine Radio Victoria	Ongoing funding of the Marine Radio Victoria emergency response network across Victoria to respond to emergency distress calls



## 5.0 Boating promotion

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



*Boating promotion campaign*



*Trailer reversing clinic*



*Boating program delivery*

No.	Action	Action description
5.1	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
5.2	Delivery of boat trailer reversing clinics, vessel handling courses and PWC clinics	Delivery of boat trailer reversing clinics to improve the boating experience
5.3	Delivery of boating component identified in the Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating Strategy	Delivery of boating programs as identified in the WIRFAB Action Plan to encourage women in recreational boating. This includes women only trailer reversing clinics and vessel handling courses

## 6.0

# Public reporting



**A public report will be produced by 1st October 2024 to address the requirements identified below.**

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 1st 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.



