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# Aboriginal acknowledgement

The Victorian Fisheries Authority proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal community and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples, and as the custodians of the land on which we work and live.

We recognise the strength of Aboriginal people, Traditional Owners and their communities, and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people to Victorian life, through their daily work, their application of Aboriginal knowledge and practice, and at key events; we recognise how this enriches us all.

We recognise that Aboriginal cultures and communities are diverse and should be celebrated.

We acknowledge that the land and water is of spiritual, cultural and economic importance to Aboriginal people. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, guaranteeing equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

As part of the Victorian Government, we have distinct legislative obligations to Victorian Traditional Owner groups related to cultural and natural heritage, that are paramount in our responsibilities in managing Victoria's resources in partnership with Traditional Owners.

This year has been one of remarkable progress across fishing and boating with numerous highlights. The achievements over 2024-25 reflect the dedication of our staff and partners who worked tirelessly to ensure healthy, sustainable fisheries and enhance boating experiences for Victorians.

We are proud to have continued our support and championing of the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sectors. A key focus was working closely with Seafood Industry Victoria to promote and grow the availability of fresh, locally caught and produced seafood. Our collaboration and partnering with the abalone industry to navigate changes in global markets by introducing an Abalone Domestic Sales Permit demonstrated our ability to respond to change. A further highlight of the year was being appointed as Committee of Management for Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves which enables us to provide industry with greater access to aquaculture opportunities in Port Phillip Bay.

Our Better Boating Victoria team implemented a massive program making boating easier and more accessible for all Victorians including major on-ground works enhancing boating and fishing infrastructure across Victoria. We are particularly proud of upgrades at St Leonards, Inverloch, Echuca, Mildura and Torquay, and of expanding the accessible boating facility network with the installation of Hansa C-Cranes at Echuca, Queenscliff, Apollo Bay and Port Welshpool.

The Government's \$15 million investment in the expansion of our Arcadia and Snobs Creek fish hatcheries saw major on-ground works delivered at both sites. The program is on track for both hatcheries to be fully operational in 2025 and in time for the native fish production season. This work has been exceptionally well managed by the team involved.

We delivered many, diverse, accessible and inclusive experiences that engaged people of all abilities and all fishing and boating skill levels. This included leading and supporting major fishing and seafood festivals promoting locally caught seafood and Victorian aquaculture, engaging with kids and multi-cultural communities, supporting local economies and attracting tourists to regions across Victoria. We recognise the various benefits of fishing and boating for Victoria and our communities, and our events and engagement programs create opportunities for sectors to learn and participate that might otherwise not have such opportunities.

We continued to collaborate and work alongside Traditional Owners, conservation groups, the fishing community, and government agencies in the delivery of programs and initiatives. Without our partners we couldn't achieve all that we have, so thank you to everyone that has worked with us over the years.



While the achievements have been diverse and substantial, we have also managed through a challenging process to reduce the VFA workforce by close to 20%, and implement various other cost saving measures, to ensure long term financial sustainability. The reduction to our workforce and therefore saying goodbye to numerous valued and experienced colleagues was difficult for all involved. However, we planned and made the adjustments in ways that cared for our staff as best as possible and produced a revised structure and operating model better suited to our modern fisheries management environment. On behalf of the VFA Board and Executive Team, we thank our people, our partners and our stakeholders for their support of the VFA and each other over this period.

We look ahead with excitement. The future remains bright for Victoria's fisheries, and we are proud to lead the VFA into another exciting year for fishers and boaters in 2025-26.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

**Graeme Dear**  
VFA Board Chair



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

**Travis Dowling**  
VFA Chief Executive Officer

# Declaration in report of operations

## Responsible Body's declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the Victorian Fisheries Authority's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2025.



**Graeme Dear**  
VFA Board Chair

23 October 2025







## Our purpose and functions

The VFA is a statutory authority with responsibility for managing and developing Victoria's fisheries resources in a coordinated and strategic way to ensure their ongoing sustainability, as well as the promotion of responsible boating, fishing and fishing-related activities so that boating and fishing are more accessible to more people.

We work with government, stakeholders and the community to optimise the social, cultural and economic benefits of Victoria's fishing, aquaculture and recreational boating sectors and ensure that demand for resources and infrastructure can be sustainably supported into the future.

To achieve this, we deliver strategic fisheries management that is underpinned by science and research, improved recreational fishing and boating facilities and infrastructure, and enforcement of fisheries regulations.

We are committed to getting more people fishing by creating opportunities for people of all abilities to try fishing; to making it safer, cheaper and easier for the boating and fishing communities to get out on the water; and to making local seafood more readily available for everyone to enjoy.

The *Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016* (the VFA Act) sets out specific objectives for the VFA to:

- Promote sustainability and responsibility in fishing and fishing-related activities in Victoria;
- Promote sustainability and responsibility in boating and boating-related activities in Victoria;
- Optimise the social, cultural and economic benefits of the fisheries sectors;
- Optimise the social, cultural and economic benefits of recreational boating and the recreational boating sector;
- Support the development of recreational fishing;
- Support the development of commercial fishing and aquaculture;
- Support the development of recreational boating and access to waterways;
- Work cooperatively with fisheries management bodies in other States, Territories and the Commonwealth;
- To perform its functions and exercise its powers in any manner it considers best to achieve its objectives.

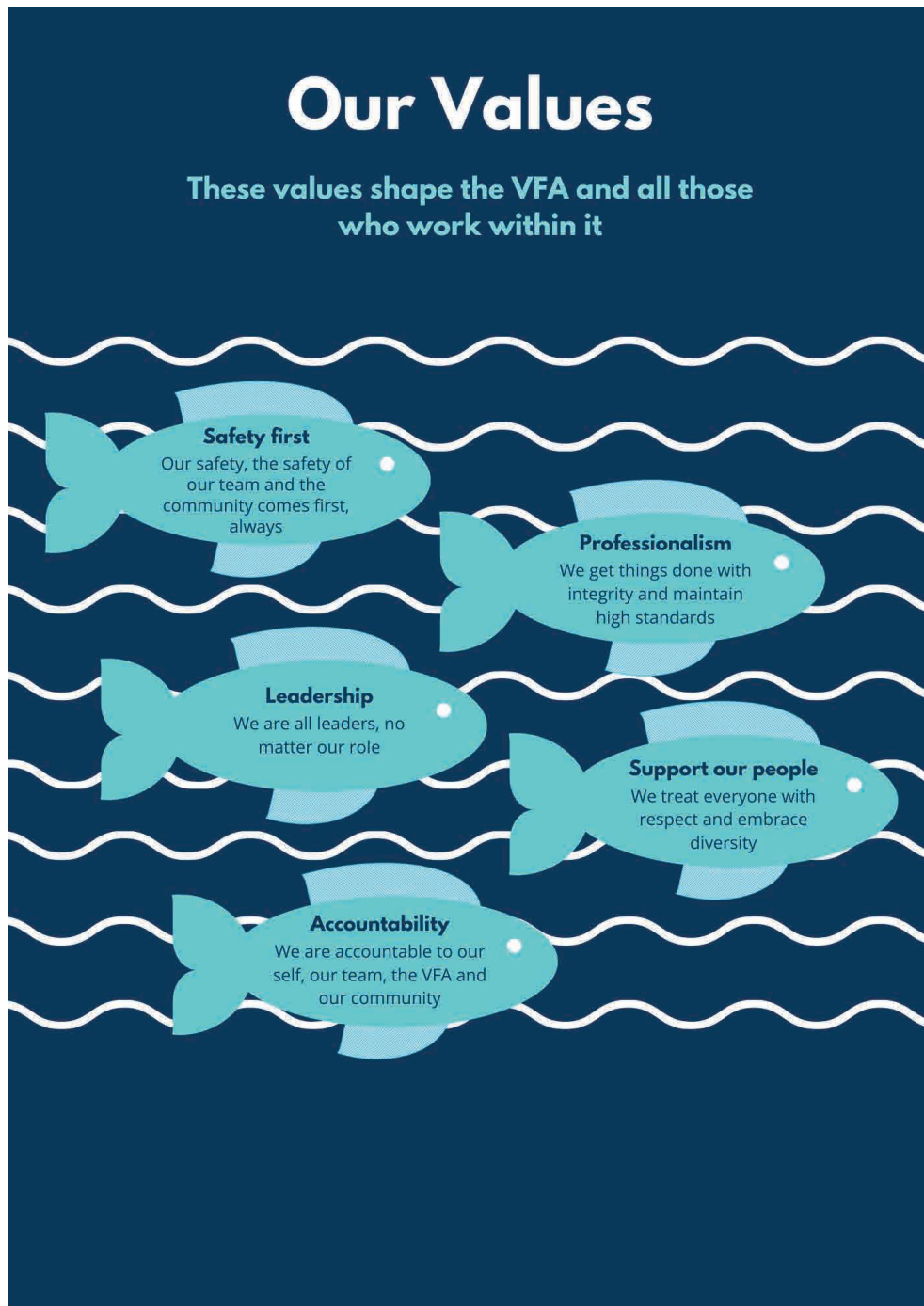
## Our vision and strategic direction

The VFA's vision is to maintain **healthy, sustainable fisheries and better boating experiences for all Victorians**.

To achieve this vision, the *VFA Strategic Plan* reflects our commitment to our stakeholders and position as a fit-for-purpose statutory authority by setting out strategic priorities under five high level focus areas:



## Our values





## Our achievements since becoming the VFA

- ✓ Increased fish stocking from 3 million to over 10 million fish!
- ✓ Built a new fish hatchery and family friendly visitor centre at Arcadia
- ✓ Introduced 'Fresh from the boat' permits to provide greater access to locally caught seafood
- ✓ Provided greater access to aquaculture opportunities across Victoria
- ✓ Halted commercial netting in Port Phillip and Corio Bay
- ✓ Supported fishing clubs through the Stronger Fishing Club grants program
- ✓ Grown our Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating network to over 4,500 members
- ✓ Built a new conservation hatchery at our Snobs Creek fish hatchery
- ✓ Delivered the Little Anglers Program through schools
- ✓ Opened inland reservoirs to kayaks, canoes and tinnies with electric motors
- ✓ Scrapped parking and launching fees at all Victorian public boat ramps
- ✓ Delivered the successful Vic Fish Kids Program
- ✓ Implemented digital tagging for Rock lobster
- ✓ Boosted tourism across Victoria with the Golden Tag competition
- ✓ Introduced the first Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan
- ✓ Introduced a digital fishing licence
- ✓ Delivered boating upgrades at Mahers Landing, Warrnambool, St Leonards, Cowes, Kirk Point, Avalon and many more
- ✓ Banned netting at Gippsland Lakes' river mouths
- ✓ Invested \$2.5 million into improving fish habitat in Port Phillip







# Our achievements in 2024-25



## Sustainable and healthy fisheries

### Supporting Victoria's healthy fisheries

#### Huge boost to native freshwater catfish populations

Endangered native freshwater catfish (*Tandanus tandanus*) populations have expanded through the release of over 12,000 catfish into 22 waters across northern Victoria. The initiative was a collaboration between the VFA, recreational fishers, Traditional Owner groups and fishers, and catchment management authorities (CMA's) to help recover catfish by re-establishing more populations of the species.

In late March 2025, thousands of catfish were salvaged from Lake Lascelles near Hopetoun, Cronomby Tanks at Woomelang and a private dam near Lancefield where the species had incredible breeding events.

The catfish were cared for at Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery while the VFA engaged geneticist Dr Peter Unmack to assess the genetics of the catfish. The genetics assessment showed that the catfish originated from the Wimmera, Mallee, Gunbower strain and were suitable for translocated release into 22 waters within their former range.

To re-establish so many populations of an endangered native fish is a huge step towards downlisting and recovery of the endangered native fish species.



**Table 1: Number of freshwater catfish stocked into waters 2024-2025.**

Water	Location	Total
Ovens River	Boorhaman, Templeton St and Lower Ovens Wildlife Reserve	2,686
Campaspe River	Campaspe Weir pool	1,035
Loddon River	Loddon River / Kerang Weir Pool	895
Broken Creek Upper	Spinks	895
Lake Sambell	Beechworth	834
Goulburn River	Yambuna	828
Broken Creek Lower	Larissa Road	784
Loch Garry	Loch Garry	544
Horseshoe Lagoon	Gunbower	544
Lake Victoria	Maryborough	504
Gunbower Creek	Gunbower	480
Winton Wetlands	Winton	315
Wooroonook Lake	Wooroonook	305
Walkers Lake	St Arnaud	284
Arcadia Pondage	Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery	273
Foletti Lake	Donald	206
Watchem Lake	Watchem	200
Turner/Phyland Lagoon	Gunbower	181
Linsday River	Linsday Point	180
Dunyak Moira	Merrigum	171
Harcourt Park Dam	Bendigo	165
Sandilong Creek	Midura	138
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,447</b>

### Successful breeding at our Conservation Hatchery

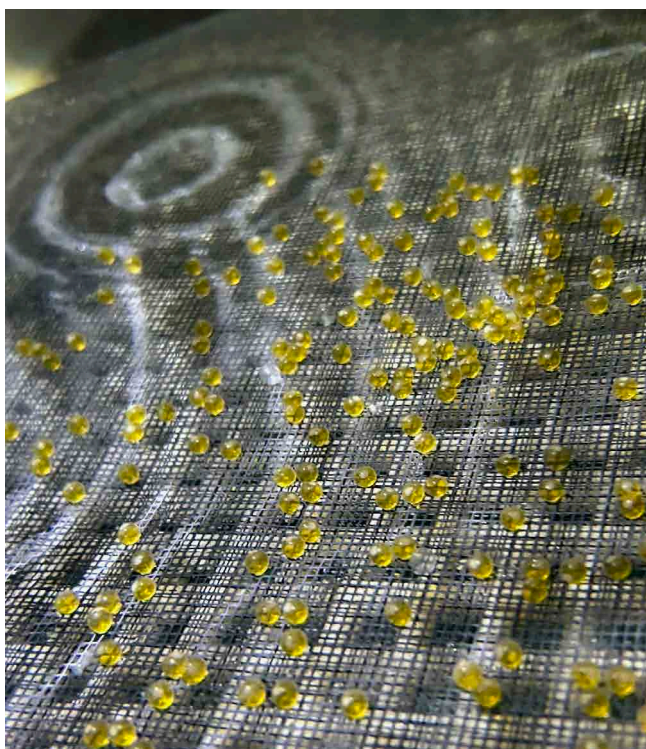
This year was a big year for breeding milestones at our \$2.7 million Conservation Hatchery at Snobs Creek.

River blackfish were successfully bred and reared for the first time using hormone induction techniques in a hatchery environment. This milestone was achieved through close collaboration and partnership with the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, Barengi Gadjin Land Council, and the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI). Broodfish were carefully rescued from the Wimmera catchment and transported to Snobs Creek where they were cared for over several months. As a culturally significant species for Traditional Owners and a priority for the conservation hatchery, successful breeding sets a new benchmark in native fish recovery efforts.

The hatchery also celebrated an Australian first with the successful breeding and release of Moroka galaxias, McDowall's galaxias and flatheaded galaxias. Moroka galaxias survive in one isolated population in the headwaters of the Moroka River, within the Alpine National Park, while the last remaining McDowall's galaxias population inhabits the headwaters of the Rodger River in the Snowy River National Park. Both Moroka and McDowall's galaxias are nationally listed as Critically Endangered in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, having been identified as facing a high risk of extinction if no action was taken from threats including fire, drought, floods and predator invasion events.

The galaxiids are part of the VFA and ARI 10inTen plan to restock and recover ten aquatic native species in as many years. Other species in the plan include catfish, Murray hardyhead, Glenelg freshwater mussel, South Gippsland spiny crayfish, southern purple-spotted gudgeon, south-western Victorian blackfish, Macquarie perch, and trout cod.

These successful breeding events complement other achievements from the Conservation Hatchery including the successful breeding and establishment of an insurance population of Glenelg freshwater mussels and the reintroduction of the once-extinct olive perchlet into Victorian waters.





## Restoring priority native fish populations through angler partnerships

To support the recovery of key native fish stocks and enhance recreational fishing opportunities, VFA hatchery staff and fisheries managers collaborate closely with recreational anglers and foster strategic partnerships.

This collaborative approach is a cornerstone of the annual estuary perch broodstock collection events, informally dubbed the “Perch Searches.”

There are two genetically distinct populations of estuary perch in Victoria, an eastern and a western strain. Each require their own broodstock collection, and local anglers who are familiar with those fisheries are engaged for each event.

As part of the eastern Perch Search initiative, local anglers in East Gippsland actively scout estuaries for spawning aggregations of estuary perch, sharing their observations with the electrofishing team to assist in the targeted collection of broodstock. Meanwhile, in western Victoria, a dedicated group of recreational anglers plays a vital role in capturing estuary perch broodstock using rod and reel. These anglers then hand over the live fish to hatchery staff from Snobs Creek, who assess and transport them to a private hatchery in Narooma, NSW, where they are bred to support future stocking efforts.



In 2024 the electrofishing team from the Arthur Rylah Institute captured approximately 70 adult perch broodstock for the eastern Perch Search, which were all transported safely to Narooma. The western collection event was held at the Glenelg River in Nelson, where a team of 18 anglers managed to capture over 100 perch in two days of fishing. The best 60 fish were retained as broodstock while the rest were released without harm.

This broodstock collection program has been in operation since 2012, and to date has produced 2.3 million estuary perch that have been released into 31 waters across Victoria. The 2024 Perch Searches resulted in the release of 133,500 estuary perch fingerlings into 10 waterways.

Unlike estuary perch, the hatchery production of Australian bass does not require the annual collection of broodstock. However, in previous years, the VFA has collaborated closely with key angling stakeholders to identify suitable bass populations for broodstock sourcing, assist in their capture, and provide valuable input on appropriate release sites for the fingerlings produced through the breeding program. Both estuary perch and Australian bass fingerling releases are carried out with the support of dedicated anglers who are deeply invested in the recovery of these native species. Their commitment and hands-on involvement help ensure that juvenile fish are released responsibly and into habitats where they have the best chance to thrive.

### Conserving river blackfish

Bushfires devastated the Grampians region over the 2024-25 summer burning more than 76,000 hectares of national park and agricultural land and significantly impacting local flora and fauna leading to concerns of a potential blackwater event threatening the region's waterways.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, in collaboration with the Arthur Rylah Institute, Austral Research and Consulting, and the VFA initiated an emergency capture and relocation of 100 river blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*), a species vulnerable to degraded water quality, in response to this threat.

This collaborative field team acted quickly to capture 100 river blackfish from at-risk waterways. Each fish was carefully measured, photographed, and assessed to establish their level of health and suitability for relocation. Blackfish were then safely transferred to unaffected waterways in surrounding regions, and a small insurance population was transported to the VFA's Conservation Hatchery for ongoing care and protection in a secure environment.

These fish will remain at the hatchery until environmental conditions in the Grampians waterways have stabilised, at which point they will be reintroduced to their native habitat. This rapid and coordinated response highlights the critical role of inter-agency partnerships and the importance of having dedicated conservation facilities, such as the VFA's Conservation Hatchery, to protect and preserve vulnerable native species during environmental emergencies.





### Forecasting fishery success with pre-recruit surveys

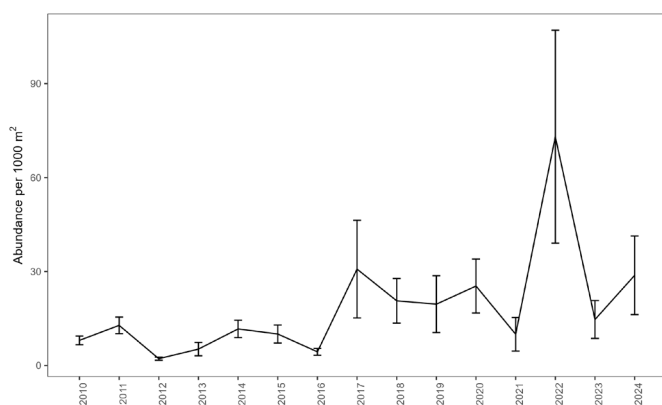
Monitoring pre-recruit (juvenile) fish numbers offers a unique opportunity to assess the future success of our fish stocks. Pre-recruits are typically too young or small to be caught by commercial or recreational fishing methods, but their abundance provides a critical insight into the future health of fish stocks and ecosystems. During 2024-25, VFA scientists conducted monitoring surveys on four key fish species including snapper, King George whiting, sand flathead and black bream using specific fishing gear to capture such small fish.

For snapper and sand flathead, a small beam trawl net was towed behind the VFA's research vessel, 'Walkan', at night across eight locations within Port Phillip Bay. Occurring annually in late March, these surveys have been conducted since 2000 and provide an excellent time series of fluctuating recruitment patterns. King George whiting were surveyed by dragging a small seine net by hand through seagrass across eight locations within Port Phillip Bay. The whiting surveys have been conducted every October and November since 1998.

The success of future fish stocks is reliant on many factors, including a sufficient spawning biomass and environmental factors including temperature, salinity and associated ecosystems including habitat and food availability. High numbers of recruits have not been seen for snapper, King George whiting and sand flathead in the last couple of years; however, this may be reflective of natural variability that we know to expect.

Black bream surveys have been conducted for the past 15 years during the winter months within the Gippsland Lakes. Surveying black bream takes around five to seven days at 50 sites within the expansive lakes system to ensure numbers obtained are representative of the entire area. In winter 2025, most juvenile black bream were found in the western region of the Lakes, which is different compared to other years.

This year's survey of all our pre-recruit species is combined with previous years data. Incorporating such data with creel surveys, angler diary and commercial data provides a holistic perspective of what are stock are now with the ability to forecast their sustainability into the future.



## Growing our fish production and stocking

### 2024-25 fish stocking program

In 2024-25 the VFA (Snobs Creek and Arcadia) grew 2,141,880 native fish and 1,497,616 salmonid fish that were stocked into public waters. In addition to these fish the VFA purchased 6,422,094 mixed species of fish that were picked up and delivered to various locations across the state.

During 2024-25 VFA staff associated with the production and delivery of fish carried out activities such as:

- management of broodstock across all species.
- harvesting of eggs from all species.
- feeding fish of all ages.
- careful movement of fish as they develop.
- animal health monitoring and management; and
- our stocking vehicles travelled 201,635 kilometres which took 501 person days to undertake.

The VFA works closely with anglers and other key stakeholders to coordinate the successful breeding and delivery of fish across the state.



Table 2: 2024-25 fish stocking numbers by region

Species	Barwon South West	Gippsland	Grampians	Hume	Loddon Mallee	Port Phillip	Grand Total
<b>Native Species</b>							
Australian Bass	20,000	117,500	-	-	-	-	137,500
Dusky Flathead	-	62,340	-	-	-	-	62,340
Estuary Perch	45,000	88,500	-	-	-	-	133,500
Golden Perch	103,570	-	356,000	1,283,160	1,408,010	-	3,150,740
Macquarie Perch	-	-	-	99,890	-	-	99,890
Murray Cod	654,300	-	206,000	1,204,510	1,884,010	66,000	4,014,820
Silver Perch	-	-	113,500	149,000	368,270	150,000	780,770
Trout Cod	-	-	-	114,680	26,290	-	140,970
<b>Natives Total</b>	<b>822,870</b>	<b>268,340</b>	<b>675,500</b>	<b>2,851,240</b>	<b>3,686,580</b>	<b>216,000</b>	<b>8,520,530</b>
<b>Brown Trout</b>							
Chinook Salmon	91,150	37,000	85,250	430,950	105,250	25,000	774,600
Rainbow Trout	85,830	-	-	-	-	-	85,830
Tiger Trout	167,963	70,670	142,970	177,047	49,100	62,880	670,630
Tiger Trout	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
<b>Salmonids Total</b>	<b>354,943</b>	<b>107,670</b>	<b>228,220</b>	<b>607,997</b>	<b>154,350</b>	<b>87,880</b>	<b>1,541,060</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,177,813</b>	<b>376,010</b>	<b>903,720</b>	<b>3,459,237</b>	<b>3,840,930</b>	<b>303,880</b>	<b>10,061,590</b>

## Protecting our fisheries for the future

### Operation Vortex

Between 2019 and 2021 Fisheries Officers in the Western region, with support from the VFA Major Fisheries Crime Unit, conducted Operation Vortex which was an investigation into the use of excess rock lobster pots and falsification of catch and effort records by the holder of a commercial Giant crab and Rock lobster fishery access licence.

The investigation found that between May 2020 and April 2021 the men falsified catch and effort records, left rock lobster pots set during the closed season and used 135 more pots than allowed under a rock lobster and giant crab fishery licence, among other offences. The operator of the licences also interfered with another commercial fishing operator's equipment and unlawfully took their catch.

Officers assessed catch and effort data, analysed vessel monitoring systems, undertook surveillance of the operators back at port and travelled hundreds of kilometres to the continental shelf west of King Island to retrieve the pots that were later forfeited.

Due to the reliance on fishery dependent data in the management of the Giant crab fishery the falsification of catch records can have a significant impact on their sustainability. Once the under-reporting was detected it led to a 28 per cent reduction in the total allowed commercial catch in the fishery.

In April 2025 the licence holder, the licence operator and an associated company were all convicted in the Geelong Magistrates' Court after pleading guilty to dealing with fish taken in contravention of the *Fisheries Act 1995* and breaches of fisheries licence conditions. In sentencing the court ordered the forfeiture of the 18-metre vessel 'Amayos', 263 rock lobster pots, floats and ropes and handed each a conviction, a \$6,000 fine and a 300-hour community corrections order. The company that employed the men was also convicted and fined \$82,500.

### Operation Kalee

In September 2024, Fisheries Officers based at Queenscliff inspected an unregistered recreational boat on the waters of Port Phillip Bay. A subsequent inspection identified the man operating the boat allegedly had 37 scallops more than the catch limit of 100. During the inspection, the officers also allegedly located a modified SCUBA tank that was engineered to include a false compartment that allowed for the concealment and storage of objects inside the tank cavity.

Fisheries Officers later executed a search warrant at the man's home which led officers, supported by investigators from the Major Fisheries Crime Unit, to investigate an alleged unlicensed seafood business conducted by the man.

The man has been charged with a number of offences relating to the alleged illegal sale of fish including abalone, Snapper and King George whiting on 46 separate occasions to 25 different people over a 12-month period. The charges include trafficking in a commercial quantity of abalone, possessing commercial fishing equipment and conducting a seafood business without being the holder of a valid Seafood Safety Licence.

## Operation ITHOR

In early 2024, the VFA and NSW Fisheries launched Operation ITHOR in response to reports of illegal fishing and trafficking of Murray cod in the restricted area near Yarrawonga Weir on the Murray River

Surveillance confirmed that individuals were illegally catching and selling Murray cod, with phone records revealing sales of 10 to 20 fish at a time, priced between \$40 and \$90 each or \$45 per kilogram. Payments included both cash and marijuana, with evidence of drug-for-fish exchanges. Fish were stored live in a private swimming pool or frozen at a residence.

Three search warrants executed in Yarrawonga, Merrigum, and Dandenong seized phones, an iPad, and frozen fish, including undersized specimens below the legal limit. Digital forensic analysis detailed the coordination of sales, pricing, and logistics. The investigation involved joint efforts from the VFA, NSW Fisheries and Victoria Police.

In court, two accused were convicted and fined \$4,000 and \$2,000 for trafficking Murray Cod. A third accused failed to appear and fled overseas, resulting in a bench warrant and border security alerts. This individual is also linked to a separate investigation into illegal labour practices, highlighting the broader risks associated with fisheries crime. Operation ITHOR underscores the importance of strong cross-agency cooperation to protect fish stocks and uphold the law.

## Development of a new Victorian Giant Crab Fishery Harvest Strategy

In June 2025, the VFA announced the implementation of a new *Victorian Giant Crab Fishery Harvest Strategy*. The new strategy replaced existing arrangements embedded within the *Giant Crab Fishery Management Plan* 2010.

Recognising previous arrangements had been in place for 15 years, the Victorian Rock Lobster and Giant Crab Resource Assessment Group (RLRAG) recommended that a review be conducted to update the framework for assessing this fishery. The review commenced in July 2024 by a dedicated sub-committee of the RLRAG that included commercial industry representatives; scientific members; the VFA's Fisheries Management team; as well as input from other Australian jurisdictions.

A draft version of the strategy was released for public consultation in April this year and all submissions were considered in developing the final strategy.

The new strategy maintains the fundamental principles of the existing strategy, and objectives of the Management Plan, whilst offering scope for further development within the fishery. Under the existing arrangements, there were no provisions for increases in the total allowable commercial catch (TACC). This was a precautionary approach reflecting the limited data available to assess the fishery. The new harvest strategy introduces a three-tiered system offering opportunities for increases in the TACC as data collection and verification goals are reached. The tiered structure is summarised below:

### 1. Level 1

Level 1 is the most conservative level and maintains the same principles as in the existing strategy. Under this level, the TACC cannot increase, only decrease.

### 2. Level 2

To progress to Level 2, the fishery must meet mandatory length-frequency sampling and data verification requirements. Under this level, the TACC can increase by up to 20% every three years. Level 2 is considered achievable in the next couple of seasons should commercial stakeholders support collecting length-frequency data.



### 3. Level 3

To progress to Level 3, data must be collected at Level 2 for three years or more, and a model-based stock assessment must be run. At this level, the TACC will be set annually based on the results of the model.

This is an exciting development for the Victorian Giant Crab Fishery. The new harvest strategy exemplifies a collaborative effort between the commercial industry and the VFA, reflecting a mutual commitment to advancing fishery growth and economic viability while upholding a sustainable, precautionary management approach.



## Fish Habitat Improvement Fund

In 2022, the Victorian Government committed to a \$2.5 million Fish Habitat Improvement Fund to preserve and improve on Victoria's fantastic fisheries. The fund was established to focus on improving habitat for *all* fish, across fresh, estuarine and marine environments. To date we have committed nearly \$1.5 million across 15 projects, with several other major projects in the pipeline. The amazing projects already funded right across Victoria are:

### Stream 1 Projects (up to \$50,000):

Mallee CMA	Sandilong Creek carp removal and waterway improvement project
Mallee CMA	Narcooyia creek fish habitat improvement project
Wangaratta Landcare and Sustainability	Wangaratta Landcare & Sustainability in partnership with Bangerang Traditional Owners
Australian Trout Foundation	Mayfly Rise 2.0, Ovens River
North East CMA	'Bridging Waters' A project for better fish passage, Ovens River
Kiewa Valley Fishing Club	Fish Habitat Construction – Maddisons, Kiewa River
OzFish Unlimited	Willow Warriors: OzFish River Repair Bus and Recreational Fishers Unite to Control Willows Within the Little Murray
Omeo Angling Club	Macquarie Perch Habitat Restoration - Livingstone Creek, Omeo
Taungurung Land and Waters Council	Molesworth Lagoons Enhancement
North Central CMA	Tullaroop catchment enhancement for river blackfish



### Stream 2 Projects (up to \$200,000):

Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club	Kicking Goals for Kayakers' Reef, Hobsons Bay
East Gippsland CMA	Gippsland Lakes Estuaries Habitat Improvement
Glenelg Hopkins CMA	Nursery fish habitat for the Hopkins River Estuary
North East CMA	River Resurgence: A fish-friendly endeavour in the Lower Livingstone Creek
Goulburn Broken CMA	Supporting Hughes Creek Macquarie Perch





## Strong and collaborative relationships

### Kayakers Reef – Partnering to build recreational fishing opportunities

Kayaker's Reef is a small-scale shellfish reef that was installed around 800 meters south-west of Kerferd Road Pier, Albert Park, in December of 2024. Jointly funded by recreational fishing licence fees and the Albert Park Yachting & Angling Club (APYAK), its establishment aims to attract recreational fishing species such as snapper, whiting, flathead and calamari whilst improving associated habitat and ecosystems. With Port Phillip Bay having been net-free since 2022, the community now benefits from a near-shore reef, enhancing opportunities for its growing number of kayak and small boat fishers.

The reef consists of 90 concrete oyster triangles and 45 fish towers, which were strategically arranged on the bottom of the bay across an area approximately 10 by 20 metres, in water about 5.4 metres deep. The oyster triangles were seeded with native oysters at the Victorian Shellfish Hatchery in Queenscliff.

VFA's fisheries scientists conducted a survey of the reef in May 2025 to inspect the reef's progress. In just 5 months since its establishment, significant oyster and habitat growth was observed. Oyster growth was so advanced that it was difficult to distinguish the original shapes of the triangles. Oysters were large and healthy, with densities already at a stage that will help minimise predation and filter seawater effectively. With Phase 1 now complete, Phase 2 has begun and will triple the reef's size with an additional 48 fish towers deployed initially and another 45 planned, thanks to funding from the Victorian Government's Fish Habitat Improvement Fund. Phase 2 reefs will be seeded with baby native Angasi oysters from the Victorian Shellfish Hatchery alongside thousands of recycled oyster and scallop shells collected from Melbourne restaurants.

Kayakers Reef would not have been a success without our important partners and collaborators on this project, including APYAK, Cardium Marine, MACS Diving Services, Sustainable Oceans International, Victorian Shellfish Hatchery, Reef Design Lab, The University of Melbourne and Kina Diving.



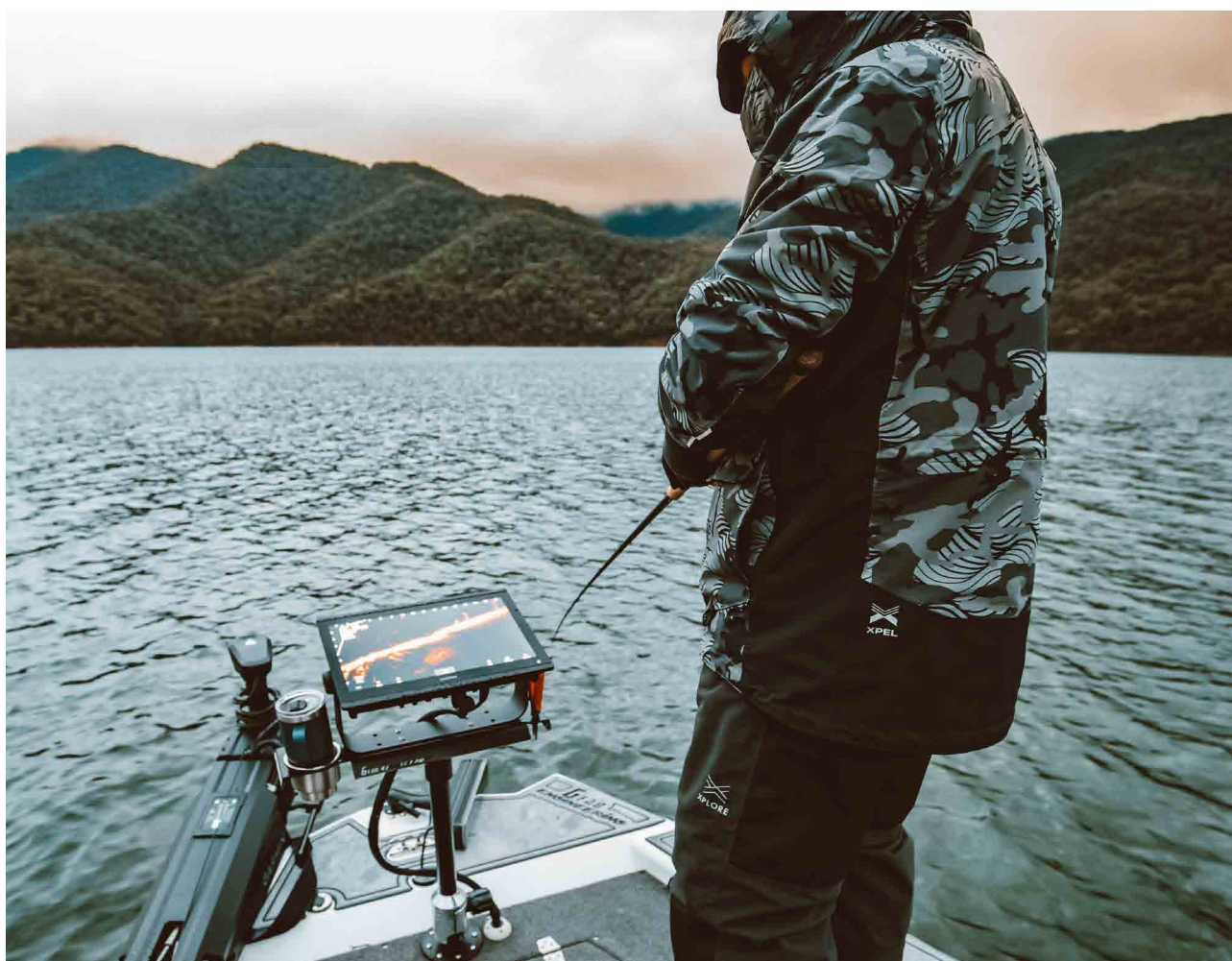
## Collaborating on the use of live sonar technology

Use of 'Livescope' (advanced next generation live sonar technology, essentially 'fish finders') is increasing in our recreational fisheries and worldwide. It's a hot discussion topic with some anglers over the merits of its sportiness because it's helping a lot more anglers catch more fish and some very big fish.

In January 2025, VFA Fisheries Managers collaborated with recreational fishing experts from around the world and published a new international paper in *Fisheries Volume 50, Issue 2* on knowledge about live sonar use in recreational fisheries worldwide, including in Australia for Murray cod.

Key findings of the paper are that live sonar is not a risk to sustainability because we have bag and size limits, record stocking, habitat restoration and excellent angler behaviour (e.g. high compliance and good fish handling) to ensure the sustainability of our fish stocks, which are in excellent health. But live sonar is changing the fishing experience for some fishers as they can find the fish quicker, see the fish interact with lures and baits in real time and have a deeper appreciation of fish behaviour.

From a fisheries management perspective, it's an exciting development as it's helping some anglers catch more fish and enjoy their time on the water, particularly in booming Victorian stocked impoundment fisheries for Murray cod and golden perch such as Lake Eildon, Lake Hume and Rocklands Reservoir. It is a personal choice whether anglers want to use the new technology or not and we understand some anglers are embracing it and enjoying it while others prefer to fish without it.





## Partnering with Traditional Owners to study wetland stocking opportunities

As a consequence of extensive river regulation, many native fish have been “disconnected” from the annual wetting and drying cycles of major wetland ecosystems along the Murray River corridor. Historically, floodplain wetlands played a crucial role in providing nursery environments for juvenile fish before they were able to rejoin the river during Spring high flows. Two of our most iconic species in northern Victoria, golden and silver perch, have been particularly impacted.

To help reconnect these fish with this natural cycle, the VFA was successful in receiving funding from the Murray Darling Basin Authority’s *Murray-Darling Water and Environment Research Program* for a tactical research trial to test strategic stocking of golden and silver perch into three floodplain wetlands. Wetlands were selected in partnership with Traditional Owners to match with cultural values and objectives. Significant input from Mallee and North Central Catchment Management Authority staff and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder was then overlayed to ensure the current hydrology of the sites would be appropriate.

Wetlands were watered using water for the environment prior to being stocked by the VFA and a detailed monitoring program implemented in partnership with the First People of the Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (FPMMAC) at Mildura, the Barapa Barapa community near Cohuna and the Arthur Rylah Institute.

Initial results from this pilot study are very encouraging. Growth rates of stocked fish have been exceptional, with golden perch attaining a size of up to 225mm in less than 6 months (stocked as larvae). This project indicates that, with some refinement, there are several exciting opportunities to explore into the future, such as:

- Increased participation and self-determination for Traditional Owners in fish stocking and conservation programs.
- Possible additional stocking strategy for golden and silver perch.
- Incorporation of native fish objectives into seasonal watering proposals when planning water for the environment.



On Country with the FPMMAC River Rangers team and the Arthur Rylah Institute



Magnificently proportioned golden perch from one of our trial sites

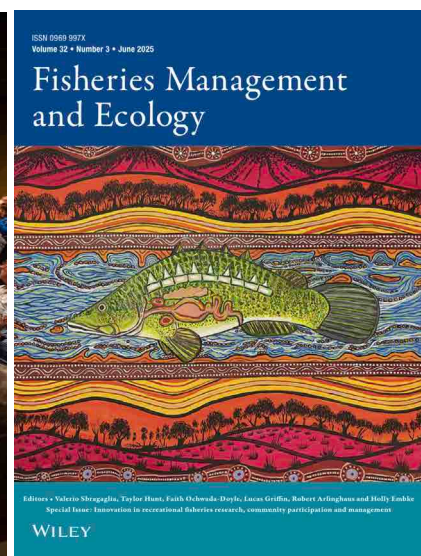
## Victoria's World Recreational Fishing Conference collaborations continue

Since hosting the World Recreational Fishing Conference in Melbourne in 2023, the VFA has continued to collaborate with some of the best recreational fishing experts from around the world.

In August 2025, VFA Fisheries Managers co-guest edited a Special Issue of *Fisheries Management and Ecology* titled '*Innovation in recreational fisheries research, community participation and management*'. The Special Issue featured 19 detailed international recreational fishing management and science papers that were presented at the World Recreational Fishing Conference in Melbourne providing valuable case studies to inform recreational fisheries management around the world. The cover of the Special Issue featured the Indigenous dreamtime story painting of the Murray cod by Norman Stewart, Yorta Yorta Elder.

The Special Issue also included a review paper on learnings from three decades of World Recreational Fishing Conferences regarding the dynamics of recreational fisheries.

It's great to continue to exchange knowledge with the world's best recreational fishing experts on fisheries management and science strategies, to maximise our valuable recreational fisheries in Victoria.



## Empowering the Goulburn Valley Congolese Community Through Fishing

In February 2025, 45 members of the Goulburn Valley Congolese community gathered to participate in a special event focused on responsible and safe fishing in Victoria. This successful initiative was made possible thanks to the work of Evariste Byamnobe, one of the original members of the VFA Community Reference Group (CRG) in partnership with the VFA's Natashar Wills from the Community Engagement & Major Crime division.

During one of the regular consultations between the CRG and the VFA, Evariste was introduced to various initiatives through which the VFA supports community engagement in recreational fishing. These include access to resources such as the Community Engagement Program and the Recreational Fishing Grants Program. Recognising recreational fishing as a health-promoting, family-oriented activity, Evariste identified a valuable opportunity for the Congolese community to derive both social and cultural benefits.



The Congolese community began settling in Shepparton in 2005, and many members continue to face challenges related to the enduring impacts of conflict in their homeland and trauma associated with refugee experiences. Language barriers remain a significant obstacle to social integration, particularly among young people. Evariste envisioned recreational fishing as a means to overcome these barriers strengthening family relationships, fostering a sense of belonging, and building meaningful connections with the broader Shepparton community.

To realise this vision, Evariste collaborated with Natashar to design a community-focused initiative, seeking financial support through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program and products from the VFA. Together, they developed a tailored program with the following objectives:

- Introduce members of the Congolese community to recreational fishing opportunities in Victoria
- Promote responsible, sustainable, and safe fishing practices through:
  - an educational workshop facilitated by the VFA;
  - interactive, hands-on learning experiences;
  - culturally appropriate and accessible educational materials, including resources translated into community languages;
  - provision of basic fishing equipment to encourage continued participation.
- Strengthen community bonds through a family-oriented social event

The event, held on 8 February 2025, was met with tremendous success. Participants from across the Congolese community engaged enthusiastically throughout the day. Many expressed deep appreciation for the effort and time invested by VFA staff and were especially pleased to discover that learning materials were available in their native languages.

This initiative exemplifies the power of community-driven collaboration and how recreational fishing can support inclusion, wellbeing, and social connection in Victoria's diverse communities.



## Engaging with our stakeholders and local communities

### Delivering events for all Victorians to engage sustainably in recreational fishing and boating

The VFA delivered a diverse range of community engagement events throughout the year promoting safe, sustainable, and responsible fishing and boating practices. Inspiring and empowering greater participation of women, kids and people from culturally diverse backgrounds to participate in recreational fishing and boating is a priority for the VFA.

The VFA is committed to creating inclusive, accessible experiences that engage people of all abilities and fishing/boating skill levels. Through these events, our goal was to increase awareness of the many health and wellbeing benefits that recreational fishing and boating provide.

In 2024-25 the VFA led or sponsored successful events including:

- Three Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating (WIRFAB) events and clinics on International Women's Day
- Five boat trailer reversing clinics and two Marine Licence Courses for WIRFAB
- Two WIRFAB networking events at Melbourne and Geelong Boat Show
- Regional Fishing Expo
- Three Hooked on Events (Portland, Lakes Entrance and Bellarine)
- Two Trout Season Opening events (Eildon and Ballarat)
- 10 Vic Fish Kids fishing clinics delivered within larger VFA led community events
- Hatchery Open Days at Snobs Creek and Arcadia
- Colac Carp Festival
- Seymour Fishing Festival
- Talk Wild Trout and Codference
- All abilities clinics at Lillydale Lake
- Melbourne Boat Show and Geelong Boat Show (sponsored)
- Sea Days Corner Inlet (sponsored)
- Tidal Seafood Festival (sponsored)
- Port Campbell Crayfest (sponsored)





### Delivering events for all Victorians to promote regional tourism fishing destinations

Fishing is a popular recreational activity that can activate economic activity for regional destinations. The VFA has conducted events targeting several core markets around the state. Events such as Hooked on Portland, Hooked on Lakes, Hooked on Bellarine, Goulburn Fishing Festival, Ballarat Fishing Festival, Seymour Fishing Festival and Colac Carp Festival promoted regional tourism through recreational fishing and boating. They also strengthen community engagement in freshwater and saltwater fishing, promoted environmental awareness, and conservation, supported local business through increased visitation and encouraged and increased participation in outdoor recreational activities.



### Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating Network

Established by the VFA in 2018, the Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating (WIRFAB) Network is dedicated to empowering and inspiring women through skill development and greater participation in fishing and boating. WIRFAB fosters a supportive and thriving community through both virtual engagement and in-person events, encouraging knowledge sharing, confidence building, and enjoyment of the recreational fishing and boating pastime.

In 2024–25, the WIRFAB Network delivered five boat trailer reversing clinics and two marine licence courses for women across Victoria. Held in Hastings, Rhyll, Bendigo, Limeburners, and Ballarat, these practical clinics were led by expert instructors who shared tips and techniques to help participants confidently reverse boat trailers. The events were well attended and valued by the female participants.

The WIRFAB Leadership Program also continued in 2024-25, offering emerging female leaders opportunities to develop new skills, expand their networks, and contribute to their communities. Participants engaged in valuable discussions with industry leaders, exploring both the opportunities and challenges involved in increasing women's participation in recreational fishing and the broader fishing industry.



### Victoria's Talk Wild Trout Conference Delivers Again

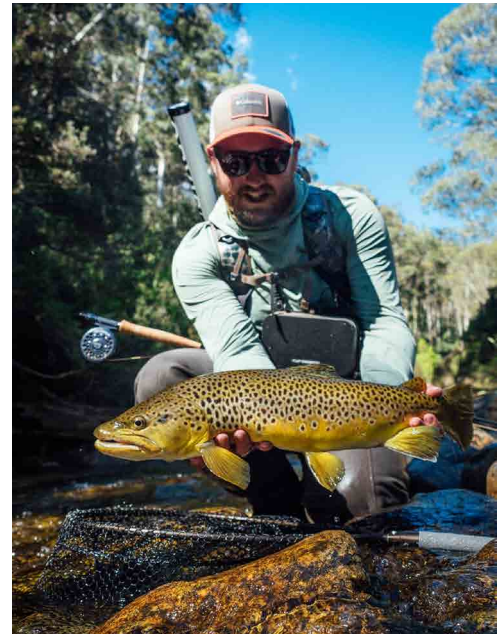
On Saturday 21 September 2024 the VFA delivered another successful Talk Wild Trout Conference, celebrating, learning and sharing wild trout fishing with recreational fishers in Victoria's high country in Mansfield.

The major recreational fishing stakeholder engagement event held in partnership between the VFA and Australian Trout Foundation and attracted more than 130 avid, influential and representative trout fishers from across Victoria, NSW and Tasmania.

With an amazing line up of speakers, the feedback on the event from the attendees was exceptional. Key presentations included:

- Philip Weigall (FlyStream), and James Norney (Mountain Fly) on their expert tips on trout fishing and how fishers can maximise their chances in a dynamic environment.
- John Billing (Mending Casts) and Matt Tripet (The Fly Program) on insights into the incredible mental health and wellbeing benefits of trout fishing.
- Shea Bloom (Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating Network) and Karen Brooks (Australian champion tournament fly fisher) on how more and more women are getting into trout fishing and fly fishing.
- Terry George (Australian Trout Foundation) and Andrew Briggs (VFA) on how trout fishers and Catchment Management Authorities are contributing habitat restoration, which benefits not only trout, but the whole ecosystem.
- Jarod Lyon (DEECA) on how trout fishers can support the recovery of threatened species which has big benefits to social licence of trout fishing
- Taylor Hunt (VFA) on the partnership approach recreational fishers and Government are taking to manage trout fishing into the future, embracing social licence and the broader benefits of recreational fishing to the community and the environment.

The Conference also provided an opportunity to acknowledge and recognise major contributors to recreational fishing and river health. A VFA individual award was presented to Terry George, President of the Australian Trout Foundation for his enormous contribution to recreational fishing and river health over the past decade. A VFA project award was also presented to the MayFly Rise Project Partners for their collaborative efforts to install log jams and boulders to create fish habitat, and the revegetation of banks for enhanced river shading and insect activity on the Ovens River in North East Victoria. Congratulations to Terry George, Australian Trout Foundation, Alpine Fly Fishers, Wangaratta Fly Fishers, and the North East Catchment Management Authority.





### Recreational fishing forums

In 2024-25, the VFA held another 12 recreational fishing forums at angling clubs across the state at Boort, Maryborough, Melton, Glen Waverley, Dartmouth, Seaholme, Geelong West, Horsham Ouyen, Sale, Omeo and Inverloch.

The forums provided an opportunity for passionate anglers to hear from experts, discuss their much-loved pastime, and share ideas to make fishing even better. Each forum featured presentations from VFA staff on the latest in fishing, including updates on projects being delivered through the Victorian Government's \$96 million Go Fishing and Boating Victoria Plan.

The forums featured a comprehensive presentation before the audience chatted with speakers directly, asked questions and exchanged ideas. Topics were tailored to each region and included VFA efforts to recover native fish, wild trout populations, Gippsland's embayment fisheries, and Port Phillip Bay's diverse and productive net-free future.

Forum feedback was outstanding, with participants valuing the face-to-face interaction with our enthusiastic and passionate VFA team.



### Collaborating on the management of long-spined sea urchin

The National *Centrostephanus* workshop was held in Melbourne on 30 and 31 October 2024, bringing together marine scientists, fisheries managers, government agencies, environmental organisations, and industry representatives from Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, and New Zealand. The workshop aimed to identify and evaluate effective management strategies for the *Centrostephanus rodgersii* (long-spined sea urchin). It also focused on promoting long-term ecosystem health, exploring opportunities in harvesting and processing (including value-adding and market expansion), and strengthening cross-jurisdictional and inter-sectoral collaboration. Interactive sessions invited participants to define priority management actions, identify knowledge gaps, and assess business and research models for utilising lower-grade urchin roe. Attendees shared current research and management experiences, assessed the feasibility and risks of various strategies, and collaboratively prioritised a list of practical, cost-effective actions.

The successful workshop resulted in a consensus on key management priorities and a renewed commitment to coordinate efforts across jurisdictions with strong agreement on the need for a collaborative, action-oriented approach to support sustainable management, market development, and the restoration of urchin-impacted reefs.





## Social and economic prosperity

### Supporting the growth of Victorian aquaculture

#### Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves

Victoria's twelve Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves (AFR's), located across Port Phillip Bay and Western Port, encompass some of Australia's most productive mussel farming environments. Collectively, Victorian mussel producers harvest approximately 1,700 tonnes of mussels annually, contributing an estimated \$6 million in gross production value.

In response to sustained industry interest in expanding operations, particularly through access to vacant aquaculture sites, the VFA was appointed Committee of Management for the AFR's in 2024–25. This appointment conferred responsibility for the leasing and oversight of aquaculture sites within the reserves, which comprise 180 individual farming areas spanning more than 1,040 hectares.

The VFA launched a major tender process in December 2024, offering 368 hectares of previously unallocated aquaculture sites for future development. This marked only the third occasion that vacant water had been made available following earlier tenders in 2006 and 2017 and proved to be the most successful to date. More than 290 hectares were successfully allocated through competitive bidding.

In May 2025, the VFA issued leases for all successful bids. These new lease allocations are expected to increase mussel farming capacity by approximately 35%, supporting industry growth, creating new employment opportunities and enhancing the availability of fresh, locally produced seafood for Australian consumers.



### Promotion of Victorian Aquaculture at fishing festivals

The VFA delivers a diverse range of community engagement events throughout the year.

Many Victorians are unaware of the diversity and produce available from aquaculture farms. To improve awareness, the Aquaculture team attend many of the VFA events, and partner with local aquaculture businesses to promote Victorian aquaculture.

The Aquaculture hub at these events provides community information on Victoria's diverse aquaculture sectors as well as cooking demonstrations using aquaculture produce, and samples for public tasting.

The local aquaculture businesses often set up retail outlets as well, offering their produce for sale to consumers.

In 2024-25 the Aquaculture team and Victorian aquaculture businesses attended the following events:

- Hooked on Bellarine with Jade Tiger Abalone, Advanced Mussel Supplies and Mainstream Barramundi
- Hooked on Portland with Yumbah Abalone and Mainstream Barramundi
- Hooked on Lakes Entrance with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation oyster farmers
- Arcadia Hatchery Open Day with AQUANA Murray Cod
- Snobs Creek Hatchery Open Day with Yarra Valley Caviar, Goulburn River Trout and AQUANA Murray Cod
- Goulburn Fishing Festival with Yarra Valley Caviar and Goulburn River Trout
- Ballarat Fishing Festival with Goulburn River Trout
- Seymour Fishing Festival with Goulburn River Trout





## Opening new domestic markets for wild-caught abalone

Abalone fisheries worldwide are facing a significant economic downturn due to reduced global demand and cheaper Chinese aquaculture abalone entering the international market, and Victoria is not immune to this challenge.

Historically, abalone processors have focused on selling large shipments of canned abalone to more profitable international Asian markets, however the recent shift has resulted in a significant reduction in these established avenues.

In response, abalone fishers have been working in partnership with the VFA to develop and trial new arrangements which will allow fishers to seek out new local markets for wild caught abalone.



To support the industry's viability, the VFA has developed a "Domestic Sales (Abalone) Permit". Beginning in July 2025, abalone fishers from all zones can apply for the permit, which is an expansion of the existing Small Abalone Sales Permit program. The change allows fishers to store up to 500kg of fresh, live or frozen abalone at a commercial premises for sale in 50kg portions to Victorian seafood businesses and restaurants (subject to Prime Safe approvals).

It is anticipated that the permit will provide the community greater access to fresh Victorian abalone, whilst reducing black market demand for illegally caught abalone, by providing a legitimate product at a competitive price point. The permit will be trialled for 12-months and reviewed to determine its success.

## Murray cod conference

On Saturday 16 November 2024, hundreds of anglers from across Australia gathered in Shepparton, Victoria, for the 7th Murray Codference. This marquee recreational fishing event celebrated the resurgence of Victoria's native fish stocks, highlighted the latest advances in fisheries management, research, and habitat restoration, and brought together leading cod anglers to share proven tactics for landing more native fish.

Featuring well known talent in Murray cod fishing, including recreational fishing influencers, podcasters and YouTube celebrities, anglers had high praise for this year's event. Key speakers and presentations on the day included:

- Lubin Pfeiffer (The Full Scale) on how Murray cod fishing has never been better, his love for the Cods and how anglers can increase their chances this Summer.
- Robbie Alexander (robbiefishing) on cod fishing for kids and families and back to basics with bait.
- Kate Norman (Anaconda) on how Eildon is Australia's best cod fishery and tips to have more success on the water.
- Colby Lesko on top tactics and prime locations to catch monster cod in rivers and lakes across Victoria.
- Caitlin Berecny (OzFish Unlimited) on how anglers are leading native fish recovery through habitat restoration and citizen science.
- Travis Dowling (VFA) on the carp virus and the plan for a trial-controlled release pending approval from the Commonwealth.
- Taylor Hunt (VFA) on Victoria's native fish resurgence and how anglers are helping to drive the recovery of our native fisheries through fish stocking, habitat restoration, great regulations and fish handling.
- Dr Jarod Lyon (DEECA) on the 10inTen initiative to boost numbers of threatened species at the Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery.

- Duncan Hill (VFA) on the incredible expansion of Arcadia and Snobs Creek fish hatcheries to help build more world-class native fisheries.
- Dr Corey Green on the secret life of Murray cod and results from electronic tagging and movement tracking of Murray cod in Lake Eildon.
- Tim Lucas (Queensland Fisheries) and Garry Fitzgerald on Murray cod fishing, trevally stocking and recovering Mary River Cod in the Sunshine State.

Panel sessions with speakers and expert guests including Dr Ivor Stuart (Charles Sturt University), Anthony Forster (VFA) and Rob Loats (VRFish) gave the audience opportunities to discuss and share hot topics and opportunities.

The event also featured exhibitions from Dr Stuart 'The Codfather' Rowland signing his new book, live fish displays from Native Fish Australia and VFA, Tasline, OzFish Unlimited and North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Victoria's Murray Codference is widely celebrated event which continues to provide great angler engagement and anticipation prior to the Murray cod season opening again in many lakes and rivers in Victoria on December 1.

Presentations from the day are available on the VFA website and YouTube channel and plans are already underway to host the next Murray Codference in 2025.







## Effective and innovative authority

### Gender Equality Action Plan 2021 – 2025

As reported in last year’s Annual Report, the VFA submitted its first progress audit and report against the Gender Equality Action Plan 2021 – 2025 (GEAP) to the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector (the Commission) in February 2024. This is a requirement under the Gender Equality Act 2020 (the Act). The relevant period for this progress report was 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023. On 1 October 2024 the Commissioner advised the VFA that it is compliant under the Equal Opportunity Act 2020 for both the Progress Audit and Progress Report.

Over the 2024-2025 year, the VFA continued to implement strategies and actions to help build a foundation for ongoing progress in achieving gender equality in the long term. These have included:

- Organisation wide staff Respect and Inclusion Focus group established with three meetings held.
- Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) in-house training piloted with tools and templates in late 2024 that incorporate an intersectional lens. Training delivered to a further two groups in February 2025. Teams involved in the training have undertaken a GIA on a program, policy or service relevant to their areas.
- A dedicated intranet page for GIA tools and templates has been created. Further GIA training is planned and a library for completed GIAs being created.
- The Sexual Harassment Policy and reporting procedure reviewed and updated in 2024, making processes clearer and supports easier to access.
- People & Culture Team established an ongoing process where data is maintained for internal promotions through recruitment processes and reclassifications, providing data that has not been available through HR systems.
- Through quarterly communications encouraging staff to complete diversity data in the HR System there has been an increase in the number of staff providing some level of diversity information from 20% to 45%. While some of this information is incomplete it has provided greater intersectional data in HR System.

The overall gender composition of the VFA changed over the year with the percentage of women increasing as shown in table 3 below.

Table 3 VFA gender composition.

	Men	Women
30 June 2024	65.4%	34.6%
30 June 2025	63.6%	36.4%

## Enforcing our regulations to protect the community's fisheries resources

### The VFA's enforcement activities

To protect Victoria's fisheries resources and the environment, as well as ensuring the community that fishing is carried out sustainably and responsibly, the VFA undertakes law enforcement operations to deter, detect, disrupt and dismantle unlawful activities. A summary of the enforcement activities undertaken in 2024-25 is detailed in the table below.

Table 4: Summary of enforcement and education activities

Enforcement activities	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
<b>Inspections</b>			
Aquaculture inspections	30	45	48
Commercial fishing inspections	411	703	645
Marine safety inspections	3,224	6,115	6,310
Recreational fishing inspections	28,395	43,877	47,232
<b>Investigations</b>			
13FISH calls	1,918	1,830	1,816
Investigations initiated	60	71	53
<b>Marine Park activities</b>			
Marine Park inspections	194	318	250
Marine Park patrols	1,318	1,558	1,544
<b>Enforcement actions</b>			
Offenders detected	3,258	5,130	4,999
Verbal warning given	1,015	1,687	1,522
Official warning issued	1,770	2,650	2,416
Infringement notice issued	1,219	1,979	2,099
Prosecution briefs submitted	52	39	31
<b>Education activities</b>			
Participants through school programs	15,386	14,982	13,343
Participants through community events	5,678	3,994	8,741
Participants through Community engagement	4,306	2,429	1,759
Fisheries Officer attendance at events	63	69	73



## Delivering improvements through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program

For over 23 years, funds from the sale of recreational fishing licences have been used to fund projects delivered by fishing clubs, community groups and government agencies to improve recreational fishing in Victoria. Grants are made available to successful applicants after assessment by the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee and approval by the Minister for Outdoor Recreation.

The Recreational Fishing Grants Program consists of four separate tiers:

- 1. The Commissioning Grants Program** - This program funds large VFA-led priority projects. In 2024-25, funding of \$201,201 was approved for the production of products to assist recreational fishers in understanding and complying with fishing rules, including the Recreational Fishing Guide, fish rulers and measures. A further \$169,300 was allocated for the collection of recreational fishing catch and effort data at key locations around the State.
- 2. The Large Grants Program** - This program provides funds for a wide range of projects between \$5,001 and \$100,000, and in 2024-25, a total of \$953,483 was awarded to 13 projects.
- 3. The Intermediate Grants Program** - This program provides grants of up to \$50,000 to angling clubs and community groups for projects to improve recreational fishing. In 2024-25, a total of \$217,754 was awarded to six projects.
- 4. The Small Grants Program** - This program is open year-round and provides funds to angling clubs and community groups to run community fishing days and other small-scale projects. In 2024-25, a total of \$113,398 was awarded to 36 projects.

In accordance with Section 151B(4) of the *Fisheries Act 1995*, an annual report detailing all Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account revenue and expenditure is prepared and tabled in each House of Parliament. The report can be found on the VFA website ([www.vfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au)).

Three key projects completed in 2024-25 were:

### Lake Marma Fishing Pontoon

The Lake Marma Committee of Management received \$80,000 to extend fishing access to a new area of Lake Marma. In partnership with the Murtoa Angling Club, the funding supported the installation of a fishing pontoon on the northeast corner of the lake. The pontoon provides greater access for land-based fishers and encourages tourism by being located close to the Murtoa Caravan Park. This project was listed as a priority in the Murtoa Community Action Plan, demonstrating the support the local community has provided for this project.



### Increased Habitat at Bridging Waters, Ovens River.

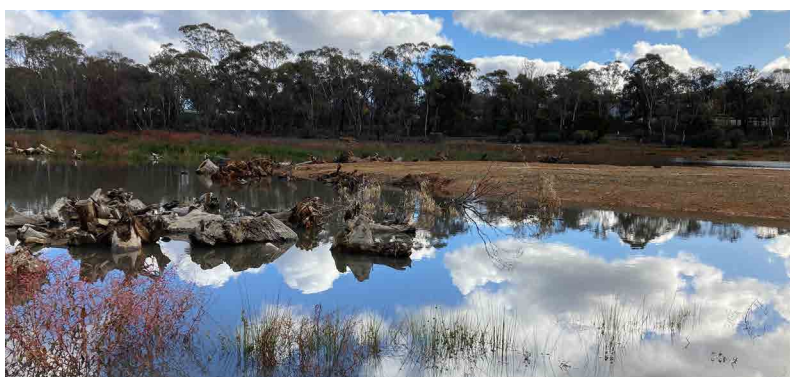
The Australian Trout Foundation (ATF) received \$54,850 to introduce new habitat across 7 hectares of the Ovens River for endangered fish species such as Macquarie perch and trout cod. Historical mining and agriculture in the area had reduced habitat within the Ovens River. This project mitigated these effects by introducing timber log jams, installing large boulders and treating riparian woody weeds to provide habitat, stabilise the water system and create high flow 'fishway' channels. In partnership with the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA), the Wangaratta Fly Fishing Club and the Alpine Anglers, 500 trees and shrubs were also planted along the banks of the river to reduce erosion. The Bridging Waters project provides important linking habitat downstream from the Mayfly Rise projects delivered previously by the ATF and NECMA.





### Kennington Reservoir Habitat and Improved Access

The City of Greater Bendigo received \$109,999 to improve habitat and fishing opportunities at Kennington Reservoir. The project improved habitat by digging channels for fish to move through, increasing breeding habitat by installing logs, root mass and constructed 'fish hotels', planting aquatic vegetation for food and reintroducing threatened native species. To increase fishing opportunities the project supported the installation of casting stones for fishers throughout the reservoir, the construction of a basic canoe ramp and upgrades to an existing fishing platform near the dam wall. The City of Greater Bendigo collaborated with the North Central Catchment Management Authority, La Trobe University, DEECA and various other community groups, angling clubs and local schools in the delivery of this project. Some remaining revegetation works are continuing as water gradually returns to the reservoir.



### Building our capabilities for the future - Arcadia and Snobs Creek fish hatchery expansions

The Victorian Government has committed \$15 million as part of its \$96 million 'More piers, jetties and opportunities for little anglers' election policy for the expansion of the Arcadia and Snobs Creek fish hatcheries.

On ground works expanding the Arcadia fish hatchery began in November 2024 and are expected to be complete in Spring 2025 in time for the 2025-26 native fish breeding season. The expansion works include increasing the number of production ponds from 30 to over 125, construction of a new office/admin building, expansion of the fish processing facilities and the hatchery building and the creation of water re-use storages to manage excess water.

Late in 2024 local contractors completed the hatchery building and fish processing facility expansions, tripling the capacity of both. The major civil works to increase the number of production ponds from 30 to over 125 and construction of water re-use storages will be completed by late August 2025 along with the new purpose-built office/admin building.

The expansion of the Snobs Creek fish hatchery will deliver a dedicated Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre capable of producing up to 500,000 Macquarie perch and 500,000 trout cod each year for stocking into Victoria waterways.

On ground works began in June 2025 on the construction of the new Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre Building while offsite fabrication of its custom-built aquaculture system also began in the same period. Completion and commissioning are expected late in 2025, also in time for the upcoming native fish breeding season.



## Finding new ways to keep the fishing community informed

This year the VFA Recreational Fisheries Management Team developed new ways to communicate and engage with recreational fishers and the community through the production and distribution of a quarterly Recreational Fisheries Management Update.

The Recreational Fisheries Management Update provides a short engaging overview and update of recreational fisheries management and science interest projects occurring all across Victoria. Regular topics include:

- Fisheries regulations and consultation
- Fish stocking
- Fisheries monitoring and research
- Habitat restoration
- Fish translocations
- Threatened species recovery
- Invasive species management
- Partnerships and Opportunities
- Recreational fisher participation
- Recreational fishing access improvements

The Recreational Fisheries Management Update is emailed to all angling clubs in Victoria and is published on the VFA website.



## Using research to help anglers catch the fish of a lifetime

Victoria is home to one of Australia's best Murray cod fisheries at Lake Eildon. Thanks to the stocking of around 5.5 million cod fingerlings since 1990 by the VFA, fish of all sizes are targeted and caught by recreational anglers. Today, the lake has a growing reputation to hold trophy size Murray cod with some fish as large as 130 cm.

To help recreational anglers make the very most of this amazing year-round fishery and increase their chances of catching one metre plus sized cod, the VFA has recently completed some fascinating research about the movement and habitat preferences of Murray cod in the Upper Goulburn River and Lake Eildon.

Nineteen Murray cod averaging 93 cm (66 cm – 113 cm) in length were caught in 2022 – 2023, fitted with electronic acoustic tags and released in the Jamieson arm of Lake Eildon and the Upper Goulburn River. Sixteen acoustic receivers covering 32 km of lake and river were used to 'listen' for any electronically tagged fish swimming within 300 metres. The tags transmitted data to the receivers such as fish number, date, time, depth, temperature and acceleration which were routinely downloaded. This data was used to study their movement and to determine if there was any correlation with their behavioural characteristics with environmental variables.

Analysing 1.5 million data records revealed some fascinating results. Movement characteristics showed a cyclic pattern of cod inhabiting the main lake in cooler months and shallower tributaries and river systems during warmer months. The movement trigger seems to be highly correlated with river flow (rain). During summer,





cod were mainly found in the upper reaches of the lakes tributaries <2m deep and most active (feeding) from dusk till dawn (6 am best time) particularly when water temperatures was  $\approx 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . During winter they are more likely found in deeper waters during daylight hours (4-8m depth) and shallower waters (<4m depth) during the night. They were also very active when air pressure was <1000 hPa that may indicate when a 'hot bite' could occur. Interestingly, no correlation with moon phase was observed which many fishers think plays a part in their catch rates.

So, for anglers of all types, integrating science with their own knowledge could greatly increase their catch rate but may also increase their chance of catching that fish of a lifetime.

## Breaking new records with trout cod production

It was a record year for trout cod production with our Snobs Creek hatchery hitting a major milestone in the production of 140,980 trout cod, the highest number produced by the VFA in a single year. The new record follows two years of strong gains, with 9,800 trout cod produced in 2022–23 and 44,800 in 2023–24.

Trout cod are classified as threatened under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* & endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*. Believed to have been once widespread in north-central and north-eastern Victorian streams flowing into the Murray River, the only known remaining self-sustaining population of trout cod in Victoria is confined to the Seven Creeks system near Euroa.

Trout cod produced by the VFA lend a helping hand to the conservation of this iconic species, extending their distribution across Victoria through strategic stockings in a program aimed at establishing new viable populations. As a result, there are now viable populations in several waters including the Goulburn River and the Ovens River.

This record year of production is a great milestone in the VFA's plan to ramp up annual production of trout cod at Snobs Creek to 500,000 by 2029-30. This plan will be supported by innovative fisheries management and investment in fish hatchery facilities to boost production for stocking as part of the Victorian Government's \$15 million investment into expanding the Snobs Creek and Arcadia fish hatcheries.

The hatchery expansion and annual stockings contribute to the National Trout Cod Recovery Plan, the Victorian Government's flood recovery program and have support from recreational fishing groups and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.





## VFA appointed Committee of Management for Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves

Since 2006 reservation of land and water under the *Fisheries Act 1995* for the purpose of Aquaculture, leasing and licencing has been managed by multiple Victorian Government departments and agencies. This has at times lead to inefficiencies when dealing with multiple government departments and created challenges when seeking to gain access to vacant water.

In 2023, the VFA's aquaculture team initiated the process to become the Committee of Management (CoM) for all Victorian Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves, aiming to consolidate and streamline the management of these reserves under a single agency. This strategic move was designed to simplify administrative processes, improve oversight, and enhance service delivery across the aquaculture sector. Following an extensive and complex transition, the VFA was officially appointed CoM for all Victorian reserves in May 2025.

The appointment has been widely welcomed by the aquaculture industry, which is already experiencing the benefits of reduced red tape and improved operational efficiency. By centralising management responsibilities, the VFA has created a one-stop shop for all aquaculture activities within the reserves, making it easier for stakeholders to navigate regulatory requirements and access support. The streamlined approach is expected to foster growth and innovation within the sector, while ensuring sustainable use of Victoria's aquaculture resources.



## Enhanced boating experiences

### Delivering upgrades for our boating and fishing community

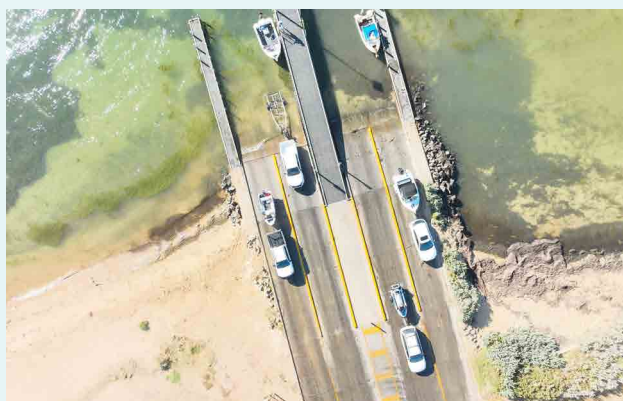
The VFA continued to implement the Victorian Government's Recreational Boating Strategy in 2024-25, delivering significant upgrades to boat launching facilities across the state in partnership with local facility managers and users. Construction was completed at St Leonards, Victoria Park in Echuca, Inverloch, Red Cliffs in Mildura, Mahers Landing, Laanecoorie, Fishermans Beach in Torquay and at Tankerton on French Island.

Detailed designs for improved facilities were also progressed at Howqua Inlet in Lake Eildon, Lang Lang, Tooradin, Tarago Reservoir, Werribee South, Schnapper Point in Mornington, Port Welshpool and Limeburners Stage 2 in Geelong, enabling construction to commence in 2025-26.



#### Mahers Landing

The redevelopment of the Mahers Landing boat ramp is complete and boasts a bridge-style concrete ramp providing easier access to deeper water, a new jetty with added wave protection, a new public toilet block and an asphalt car park with space for more than 55 boat trailers. A Boating Vic camera has been added at the ramp so boaters can view conditions online via a live camera feed before leaving home.



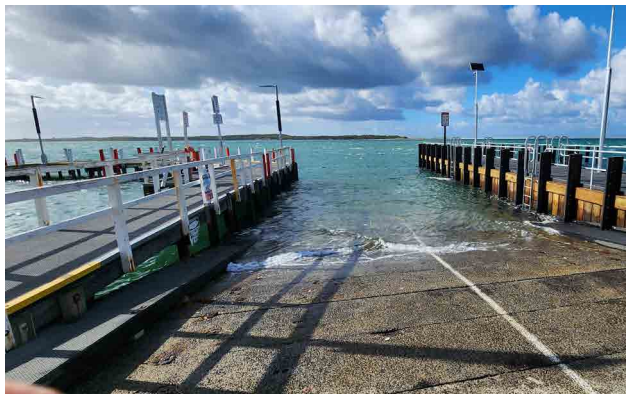
#### St Leonards

The upgrade replaced the existing central jetty and doubled the length of the "T-section" jetty to 40 metres. The new jetty has added wave screens to provide enhanced protection from northerly and easterly winds and wave action. A new accessible gangway and lower landing is also making boarding vessels easier for people of all ability levels.



#### Echuca - Victoria Park

The upgrade included a complete redevelopment of the Victoria Park facility, complete with a new dual-lane concrete ramp, an all-abilities floating pontoon and a Hansa Crane to enable people with low mobility to be hoisted into their boat from the facility. Extensive retaining walls and landscaping works were also undertaken to complete the facility.



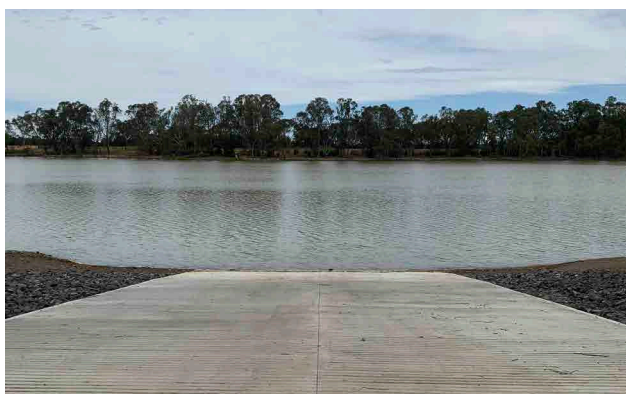
### **Inverloch**

A new jetty has been installed on the western side of the Inverloch boat ramp to provide better protection from waves as well as more options to berth when launching and retrieving. New non-slip decking, large rubber fenders and solar lights have also been installed. The carpark has also been resurfaced.



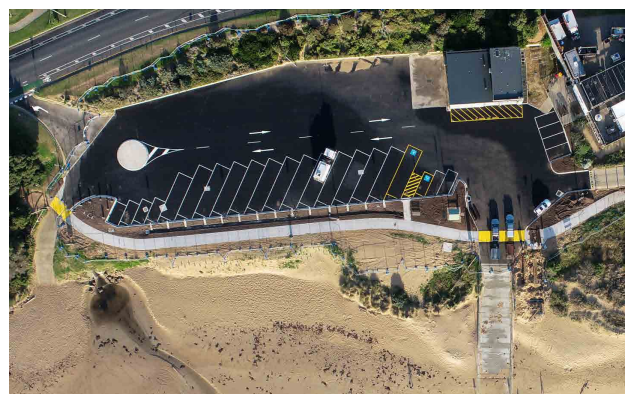
### **Mildura – Red Cliffs**

Works are complete on a new dual-lane concrete ramp at the Red Cliffs boating facility in Horseshoe Bend, Mildura. The new ramp is wider and steeper, with a grooved surface to provide more traction and will help clear sediment from the ramp.



### **Laanecoorie**

The Laanecoorie boat ramp at Brownbill Reserve was relocated from the original location to provide boating access at Laanecoorie further away from a popular swimming area and reduce safety risks for swimmers and boaters. The upgrade features a dual-lane concrete ramp and an asphalted carpark.



### **Torquay – Fishermans Beach**

The upgrade to this popular Torquay facility has delivered better parking for boaters with 24 trailer spaces, designated parking for boaters with low mobility and safer pedestrian crossings through the area. The new car park surface was designed to lighten over the coming 12 months to blend with the natural beach feel, in response to local community input.



**French Island – Tankerton**

The dilapidated boat ramp at Tankerton on French Island has been demolished, with the rock causeway now covered in concrete blocks, creating a better, more wave resilient surface for vessels to launch from.

Following the completion of these projects in 2024-25, the VFA has improved more than 60 boating facilities across the state through the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy 2021-2030, with a further 30 projects in the pipeline. Since 2021, over \$100 million has been invested from the Better Boating Fund in programs to enhance the boating experience and ensure Victorians can have a great day on the water.



## Delivering our commitments in the Government's Budget Paper No. 3

The Government's *Budget Paper No.3 – Service Delivery* outlines the Government's priorities for the goods and services it provides to Victorians, and how these support the Government's strategic objectives. It establishes performance outputs and targets for departments and agencies and provides information on how these are being delivered.

The Government's strategic objective and performance indicators for the VFA are described below.

**Departmental Objective 4:** Build prosperous and liveable suburbs and regions, and manage and promote outdoor recreation

This objective supports the development of sustainable game hunting, fishing and aquaculture activities in Victoria and the delivery of improved recreational fishing and boating services and facilities.

### Objective Indicators

#### Improved recreational fishing and boating services and facilities

In 2024–25, the Victorian Fisheries Authority completed 3 projects aimed at delivering improved infrastructure to make it easier and safer for recreational fishers and boat users to get out on the water. The following projects were completed:

- Upgrading the St Leonards boat ramp with a new rebuilt jetty and wave screens installed to provide protection from northerly and easterly winds and wave action. (December 2024)
- Upgrading the Mahers Landing boat ramp by constructing a new dual lane ramp, jetty and asphalted carparking for up to 55 cars and trailers. (October 2024). The upgraded facility also includes public toilets, a fish cleaning table, and the retainment of the old high-tide ramp for use by non-powered watercraft.
- Building a new carpark at Torquay's popular Fishermans Beach boat ramp to enable boaters to find a park after launching their boat. The new carpark has 24 spaces big enough for your car and trailer and includes kayak drop-off area, two outdoor showers, bike parking, a fish cleaning table and sealed surface. (October 2024).

#### Sustainability of assessed fish stocks

The Victorian Government is responsible for ensuring the sustainable and responsible use of Victoria's fisheries resources. We ensure sustainability by:

- managing commercial fisheries by setting appropriate quotas and catch levels, and implementing fishery management plans
- stocking fish throughout the State to rebuild populations of threatened fish species
- stocking fish to enhance common recreationally caught species to provide more opportunities for Victorians to fish more often
- improving hatchery facilities.

In 2024–25 all quota-based fish stocks managed by the VFA were fished at sustainable levels. VFA assess our key quota-based fish stocks annually. We have invested in ongoing management of key stocks such as abalone, rock lobster, giant crab and octopus. This includes long-term monitoring to understand the nature and dynamics of our fish resources.

The VFA achievements against its departmental objective and performance targets are described in Tables 5 and 6, respectively.



Table 5: Progress towards the departmental objective

Measure	unit of measure	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Indicator: Improved recreational fishing and boating services and facilities</b>					
Recreational fishing and boating services and facilities initiatives achieved	percent	100	100	100	100
Recreational boating and fishing infrastructure improvements delivered	number	2	3	3	3
<b>Indicator: Sustainability of assessed fish stocks</b>					
Percentage of quota-based fish stocks that were assessed during the year as being sustainable	percent	100	100	Not measured	100

Table 6: Performance against output performance measures

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2024-25 target	2024-25 actual	Performance variation (%)	Result
<b>Quantity</b>					
Community and stakeholder engagement information forums – fisheries	number	10	10	0	✓
Complete stock assessment for key quota managed fish species	number	3	3	0	✓
Complete total allowable commercial catch setting processes for key quota managed fish species	number	3	3	0	✓
Develop, implement and review overarching fisheries compliance strategy	number	1	1	0	✓
Enhance levels of community participation in achieving fisheries compliance through calls to the 13FISH reporting line	number	1,950	1918	-1.6	○
Key fisheries managed in accordance Fishery Management Plans	number	7	7	0	✓
Minimum number of uniformed Fisheries Officers maintaining operational coverage during priority fishing periods	number	20	16.5	-17.5	■
Outcome is marginally lower than the target due to existing VFA staff vacancies.					
Native and salmonid fish stocked	number (000)	10,000	10,061	0.6	✓
Recreational boating and fishing infrastructure improvements delivered	number	3	3	0	✓
<b>Quality</b>					
Key statutory obligations relevant to the VFA complied with (tabling annual report, audits, business plan and board appointments)	percent	100	75	-25	■
Lower result as business plan was not finalised due to ongoing internal budget considerations.					
Percentage of investigations into serious or organised fisheries offending that result in prosecution, disruption or intelligence referral outcomes	percent	90	100	11.1	✓
Higher result due to informed intelligence-based decision making leading to investigation outcomes.					

Table 6 continued: Performance against output performance measures

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2024-25 target	2024-25 actual	Performance variation (%)	Result
Timeliness					
Proportion of fisheries cost recovery levies reviewed and set prior to the commencement of the licensing year	percent	100	100	0	✓
Research project milestones and reports completed on time	percent	90	90	0	✓

An explanation is provided when there is a +/- 5 percent variance between the target and the actual result for the year.

- ✓ Performance target achieved or exceeded – both within 5 per cent variance and exceeds 5 per cent variance
- Performance target not achieved – by less than 5 per cent variance.
- Performance target not achieved – by more than 5 per cent variance.

## Delivering our 2022 State election commitments

As part of the November 2022 election campaign, the Government announced two initiatives to deliver better boating and fishing infrastructure, get more kids involved in fishing and improve Victoria's waterways to keep families out on the water for generations to come: *More Piers, Jetties and Opportunities for Little Anglers* and *Doing what matters for local communities*. Planning and program design began in early 2023, with delivery of commitments commencing from July 2023.

The fishing and boating commitments comprise:

### Fishing and stocking infrastructure

- \$15.0 million to expand Victoria's native fish hatcheries at Arcadia and Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery assist in making Victoria self-sufficient for fish stocking and replenishing our waterways. (underway)
- \$1.5 million to grow fishing participation in school aged children through a Little Anglers initiative, 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. (delivered)
- \$5.3 million for grants to enhance recreational fishing:
  - \$2.5 million to establish a Habitat Improvement Fund to preserve marine, estuarine and freshwater fisheries. (underway)
  - \$1.2 million to support local angling clubs with grants to help them attract new members, encouraging more families to take up fishing. (underway)
  - \$1.0 million to invest in the growth of Victoria's aquaculture sector, helping the industry attract new investment and grow local jobs. (underway)
  - \$0.3 million to support the establishment of Gunaikurnai Oyster Aquaculture Farm in the Gippsland Lakes. (underway)
  - \$0.1 million over one year to support Fishcare Victoria to promote sustainable fishing practices. (delivered)

### Recreational Boating

- \$22.1 million to improve 15 recreational boating facilities - jetties, piers and carparks - across the State:
  - Avalon (Stage 2) - upgrade and extension of the Avalon Boat Ramp Jetty. (delivered)
  - Cowes (Stage 2) - upgrade and expansion of the Cowes Boat Ramp Jetty. (delivered)
  - French Island - upgrade to the Tankerton Boat Ramp, including the associated jetty. (underway)
  - Inverloch - upgrade to the Inverloch Boat Ramp to provide enhanced wave mitigation and additional car parking. (underway)
  - Laanecoorie - relocation of the existing Brownbill Recreational Reserve boat ramp on Laanecoorie Reservoir to a safer location. (underway)
  - Lake Boga - replacement of the Lake Boga pontoon with an all-abilities DDA compliant pontoon, including provision for a hoist. (delivered)
  - Lang Lang - upgrade to the Lang Lang Boat Ramp launching facility. (underway)
  - Mildura - upgrade to the Mildura Redcliffs boating facility to improve usability. (underway)
  - Torquay - upgrade to the Fishermans Beach carpark. (underway)
  - Howqua Inlet - construction of a new boat ramp and parking at Howqua Inlet, Lake Eildon. (underway)
  - Limeburners - wave attenuator upgrade and new ramps. (underway)
  - Mornington - upgrade to the Mornington Schnapper Point Boat Ramp and jetty including improved all abilities access. (underway)
  - St Leonards - upgrade to the St Leonards facility, including constructing a replacement pier with wave attenuators to make launching and retrieving easier. (underway)
  - Tooradin - upgrade to the Tooradin boating facility, including jetties, boat ramp and carpark. (underway)
  - Werribee - upgrade to the Werribee South car park and ramp. (underway)
- \$4.4 million to develop a new boating facility at Tarago Reservoir, opening it up to motorised boats as well as recreational fishing. (underway)



## Ministerial Statement of Expectations for the VFA

The Statement of Expectations sets out the Minister's expectations for the VFA's regulation of fishing and boating matters and outlines a range of improvements and performance targets to enhance administration and enforcement of regulations. The Statement applies from 19 March 2024 until renewed.

Table 7 outlines the Minister's expectations and the VFA's corresponding performance targets for 2024-25.

**Table 7: Reporting on the implementation of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations**

Ministerial Expectation	VFA performance target 2024-25	Status
<b>1. Professionalism and upholding Victorian public service processes</b>		
<b>Processes and policies are in place that ensure compliance with the public sector values, Victorian Public Service codes of conduct, and public sector employment principles and standards.</b>	The VFA's intranet is up to date with policies and procedures that enable staff awareness and compliance with the essential elements of public sector values.	✓
	Regular communications are undertaken to ensure VFA staff are aware of obligations to support the delivery of high-quality services to the public, and their rights to be treated fairly and equitably.	✓
	Training and education are provided to VFA staff covering key elements of the public sector values.	✓
Ministerial Expectation	VFA performance target 2023-24	Status
<b>2. Outcomes for Traditional Owners</b>		
<b>Continue to actively engage with Aboriginal Victorians in appropriate and meaningful ways, focusing on sustainable fisheries management, recognition of Aboriginal customary fishing rights for Recognised Traditional Owner Groups and improving economic opportunities for all Aboriginal people in fishing, boating and related industries.</b>	With Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, seek funding opportunities to expand the existing partnership trial of Sydney rock oyster aquaculture in the Gippsland Lakes by 30 June 2025.	✓
	Communication, education and training delivered to improve understanding of Treaty process and outcomes.	✓
<b>Develop a plan for commercial fishing opportunities for Traditional Owners.</b>	Continued engagement with the Aboriginal Victorians to identify Commercial Fishing opportunities.	In progress
<b>3. Encouraging more women to get involved in boating and recreational fishing</b>		
<b>Continue to consult and work with, amongst others, the Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating (WIRFAB) network to elevate the voice and profile of women to promote increased participation of women and girls in recreational fishing and boating.</b>	WIRFAB Strategy is released and implementation commenced.	✓
	Membership of Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating Network (WIRFB) increased.	✓

Table 7 continued on next page

Table 7 continued: Reporting on the implementation of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

Ministerial Expectation	VFA performance target 2024-25	Status
<b>3. Encouraging more women to get involved in boating and recreational fishing</b>		
<b>Actively seek opportunities to communicate and promote to the broader community activities and initiatives that encourage the greater participation of women and girls.</b>	WIRFAB social media platform/Facebook members only page utilised to provide a safe environment for women to engage in fishing and boating-related communications.	✓
	VFA websites and social media are up to date with events that provide opportunities for women and girls to participate in fishing and boating activities.	✓
<b>4. Delivering for both commercial and recreational fishers</b>		
<b>Continue working with the Victorian seafood industry to optimise Victoria's fisheries and aquaculture industries.</b>	Stock assessments and quota setting for the abalone, rock lobster, giant crab, octopus, pipi and sea urchin fisheries completed on schedule.	✓
	Transition of the VFA to a Committee of Management of Aquaculture Fishery Reserves completed.	✓
<b>Actively engage with commercial and recreational fishers, aquaculture licence holders and Traditional Owner groups who have a direct interest in fishing and in decisions that affect their fishing entitlements.</b>	<p>Engagement activities undertaken in line with the VFA Stakeholder Engagement Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquatic Strategic Action Group – quarterly</li> <li>• Snobs Creek Board – quarterly</li> <li>• State-wide Recreational Fishing Round Table – quarterly</li> <li>• Total Allowable Commercial Catch Forums – annually</li> <li>• Seafood Industry Victoria - as required</li> <li>• VRFish - as required</li> <li>• Victorian Multicultural Commission - twice yearly</li> <li>• Boating Industry of Australia (Victoria) – quarterly</li> </ul>	✓

Table 7 continued on next page

Table 7 continued: Reporting on the implementation of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

Ministerial Expectation	VFA performance target 2024-25	Status
<b>4. Delivering for both commercial and recreational fishers</b>		
<b>Continue exploring opportunities to support innovation in Victoria's commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors .</b>	Scope of requirements to enable seaweed aquaculture to be undertaken in Victoria completed.	✓
	Leasing of vacant sites within Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves to successful tender applicants with VFA as landlord completed.	✓
	Commence design and development for Licence and Quota Management System (LQMS).	✓
	Review of electronic monitoring trial in the Giant Crab Fishery completed.	✓
	Research project investigating the use of image capture and AI technology to collect giant crab length and sex data onboard vessels completed.	✓
	Commence cost recovery reform in consultation with industry.	✓
	New abalone Fishery Independent Survey program and enhanced data collection program in place.	✓
<b>Investigate opportunities to increase consumer access to local markets, improve consumers' understanding of local products, and support seafood supply chain value-adding and diversification.</b>	Development a Commercial Fishing Strategy to identify opportunities and support growth in the commercial fishing sector.	In progress
	Future direction of Central Zone Octopus fishery determined and implemented.	✓
	Implement a Domestic Sales (Abalone) Permit.	✓
<b>Continue engagement with the recreational fishing sector and seek feedback from fishers on topics to allow the VFA to invest in priority areas, make informed choices about improving recreational fishing opportunities across the State, and identify information and knowledge gaps, including research and data needs.</b>	Fish stocking consultation forums undertaken with anglers and local agencies and results documented in the Vic Fish Stock Report for six regions.	✓
<b>Continue to deliver the priorities established in the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy 2021 – 2030 for recreational boaters across the State.</b>	Continue to remove boat ramp fees in line with set timelines.	✓
	Victorian Recreational Boating Action Plan 2024-25 implemented.	In progress
	Victorian Recreational Boating Action Plan 2025-26 developed.	✓
<b>Ensure transparency on how the Better Boating Fund is used to invest revenue raised from marine licensing and boat registration fees into improving boating safety and facilities.</b>	Annual Report on Better Boating Fund acquittal delivered.	✓

Table 7 continued on next page



Table 7 continued: Reporting on the implementation of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

Ministerial Expectation	VFA performance target 2024-25	Status
<b>5. Promoting environmental sustainability</b>		
<b>Periodic updates on the status of key Victorian fish stocks are prepared and made publicly available.</b>	Participation in the national Status of Australian Fish Stocks reporting processes to deliver updated reports every two years.	✓
	Stock assessment reports for quota fisheries are published annually on the VFA website.	✓
	Native Fish Report Cards produced annually.	✓
<b>Existing marine, freshwater and aquaculture management plans continue to be implemented and routinely reviewed and for the VFA to develop new fishery management plans and strategies as the need arises.</b>	Revised <i>Rock Lobster Management Plan</i> declared.	✓
	Freshwater Fisheries Harvest Strategy developed.	✓
<b>Continue to increase the awareness and understanding that all Victorians have a part to play in achieving sustainable and responsible use of Victoria's fisheries resources.</b>	Events aimed at educating the public on the responsible use of fisheries resources, including Vic Fish Kids, Snobs Creek and Arcadia fish hatchery Open Day's, 'Hooked on', fishing conferences and festivals, delivered.	✓
	Public education campaigns delivered through the VFA's social media platforms.	✓
	Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre education services and programs (Schools Education Program, Holiday programs delivered.	✓
	Explanatory details of relevant enforcement outcomes published on our education-specific social media platforms.	✓
	Develop and implement the Education and Enforcement Action Plan and Control Strategy 2024-25.	✓
	Analyses of 13Fish calls undertaken to identify common themes and locations in the calls.	✓

Table 7 continued on next page

Table 7 continued: Reporting on the implementation of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

Ministerial Expectation	VFA performance target 2024-25	Status
<b>6. Developing a partnership approach to safety and regulation</b>		
<b>Continue efforts to collaborate with state-level agencies whose fishing, boating and enforcement responsibilities overlap those of the VFA, or where the VFA can provide assistance, knowledge and advice.</b>	Intelligence services and enforcement support provided to assist Game Management Victoria.	✓
	In collaboration with Safe Transport Victoria and the Water Police, marine safety compliance and enforcement activities under the <i>Marine Safety Act 2010</i> undertaken in accordance with the <i>Annual Control Strategy &amp; Action Plan</i> and the <i>Recreational Boating Safety Co-regulator Plan</i> .	✓
	Contribution to Victoria's All Hazards, All Emergencies approach to emergency management achieved.	✓
	Collaboration with Department of Environment, Energy and Climate, Action (DEECA) on emergency management, particularly shark hazard management and cetacean entanglement in fishing gear, undertaken.	✓
	Collaboration with water managers and work undertaken to translocate priority fish species from lakes, rivers and channels impacted by loss or redirection of waters.	✓
<b>Continue to foster strong relationships at the national level with other fisheries management and enforcement agencies.</b>	National engagement through the Fisheries Managers Network and Australian Fisheries Managers Forum achieved.	✓
<b>7. Stakeholder consultation, engagement and education</b>		
<b>Ensure understanding of the changing needs and priorities of commercial fishers, aquaculture businesses, recreational fishers and boaters, Traditional Owner groups, and the broader community by continuing to focus on consultation and engagement.</b>	Regular meetings held with Seafood Industry Victoria and the Aquatic Strategic Action Group to collaborate on shared strategic priorities for Victoria's seafood industry.	✓
	Regular meetings of the Recreational Fishing Leaders Forum to collaborate on strategic priorities for the recreational fishing community.	✓
	Regular engagement with the Boating Industry of Victoria and VRFish.	✓
	Regular public engagement on proposed boating facility upgrades.	✓
	Effective collaboration undertaken with DEECA, Environment Protection Authority, Parks Victoria, local governments and asset/land managers to deliver boating facility upgrades, renewals and new facilities on schedule as per the annual Victorian Recreational Boating Action Plans.	✓

Table 7 continued on next page

Table 7 continued: Reporting on the implementation of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

Ministerial Expectation	VFA performance target 2024-25	Status
<b>7. Stakeholder consultation, engagement and education</b>		
<b>Continue to support diversity and inclusion by removing barriers that may deter people from participating in fishing and boating.</b>	All-abilities access points installed on schedule and in accordance with the <i>Victorian Recreational Boating Action Plan</i> .	✓
	Membership of WIRFAB increased annually.	✓
	Membership on the Community Reference Group broadened to enable Cultural and Linguistically Diverse communities to engage with the VFA and provide input into fisheries management decision making.	✓
	VFA Accessibility Action Plan 2021 - 2025 actions delivered.	✓
<b>Continue a focus on stewardship and education across the breadth of its stakeholders.</b>	Events aimed at providing a safe and enjoyable environment for people of all abilities, all communities and all ages, to learn about fishing and boating delivered.	✓
	An annual <i>Education and Enforcement Control Strategy &amp; Action Plan</i> delivered.	✓
	VFA Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2023 – 2025 implemented.	✓
Ministerial Expectation	VFA performance target 2024-25	Status
<b>8. Improving infrastructure</b>		
<b>Continue to facilitate urgent upgrades and continued maintenance of boating infrastructure through the Better Boating Fund, including delivery of the high boat ramp renewals identified in the Victorian Boating Strategy, such as Kirk Point and Lake Buffalo.</b>	Construction projects at St Leonards, Tankerton, Inverloch, Mildura, Laanecoorie and Torquay delivered.	✓
	Boating infrastructure election commitment projects progressed on schedule.	✓
	Continue to enhance the Victorian boating experience by investing in renewed and new boating facilities across Victoria in accordance with the 2023-24 and 2024-25 <i>Victorian Recreational Boating Action Plan</i> .	✓
<b>9. Accountability and transparency</b>		
<b>Ensure that fisheries management and boating-related decision-making processes are clear and visible to the public; that stakeholders have involvement in the processes, and that information is accessible, clear and easily understood and available in a timely manner on the VFA website.</b>	Stakeholders are provided opportunity to make submissions on fisheries management and boating-related matters, as relevant.	✓
	Outcomes of consultative processes are clear and easily understood and published on the VFA's website in a timely manner.	✓
	Explanatory details of relevant enforcement outcomes published on the VFA's education-specific social media platforms.	✓

Table 7 continued on next page



Table 7 continued: Reporting on the implementation of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

Ministerial Expectation	VFA performance target 2024-25	Status
<b>9. Accountability and transparency</b>		
<b>Administration of regulation should be transparent and subject to public scrutiny through effective performance reporting.</b>	VFA Annual Report is tabled in Parliament.	✓
	Annual Report on Better Boating Fund acquittal prepared to ensure transparency around how the Fund is used.	✓
<b>Continue utilising its social media platforms as key avenues to ensure stakeholders and the community have access to accurate and up-to-date information.</b>	Continued growth in the VFA's and Better Boating Victoria's reach through social media achieved.	✓
	Public education campaigns delivered through the VFA's social media platforms annually.	✓

## Financial summary 2024-25

The VFA is a statutory authority in the State of Victoria, established under the *Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016* by amendment to the *Victorian Fisheries Act 1995*.

The table below shows the financial results for 2024-25 and the two preceding financial years.

**Table 8: The VFA's summary financial performance**

	(\$ thousand)		
<b>Financial performance</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Total income from transactions	74,697	74,127	76,214
Total expenses from transactions	(78,698)	(74,269)	(78,342)
Net result from transactions	(4,001)	(143)	(2,128)
Total other economic flows included in net result	(759)	30	334
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(4,759)</b>	<b>(113)</b>	<b>(1,794)</b>

	(\$ thousand)		
<b>Financial position</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>As at 30 June</b>			
Total assets	66,150	60,329	65,999
Total liabilities	24,501	23,274	31,457
<b>Net Assets (Equity)</b>	<b>41,650</b>	<b>37,054</b>	<b>34,542</b>

	(\$ thousand)		
<b>Cash Flow Statement</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>for the financial year ended 30 June</b>			
Net cash flows from operating activities	4,255	(200)	3,904
Net cash flows from / (used for) investing activities	(10,443)	(5,124)	(1,984)
Net cash flows from / (used for) financing activities	8,248	1,534	993
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>(3,790)</b>	<b>2,913</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>4,207</b>	<b>1,294</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>4,207</b>

### Financial performance (operating statement)

The net result from transactions was a deficit of \$4.0 million for 2024-25, which represents depreciation and amortisation. The VFA is not funded for depreciation and amortisation. This will have a cumulative impact on the accumulated deficit in future financial years.

#### Income

Total income for 2024-25 was \$74.7 million, predominately as grants from DJSIR.

### Expenses

Operating expenses totalled \$78.7 million for 2024-25 and was driven by the delivery of the VFA's core functions across the commercial and recreational fishing sectors, and investment in boating infrastructure upgrades. Expenditure in 2024-25 covered the VFA's education, enforcement, research, fish stocking, and boating facilities improvement priorities, and was used to invest in and promote commercial and recreational fishing across the State.

Around \$21 million was spent on boating infrastructure projects, and a further \$5.5 million was spent on delivering the Go Fishing Victoria initiative announced in the 2023-24 State Budget. The remaining expenses were used to deliver the VFA's ongoing legislative and service delivery obligations.

### Financial position (balance sheet)

The VFA's net assets were \$41.7 million as 30 June 2025, an increase of \$4.6 million from the previous year. This increase in net assets was driven by higher assets of \$5.8 million, partially offset by \$1.2 million rise in liabilities.

The VFA's assets increased primarily due to higher year-end cash balances and capital investments to expand the Government's fish hatcheries at Arcadia and Snobs Creek expansion, partially offset by annual depreciation and amortisation. The VFA's total liabilities increased due to a revision to the VFA's employee entitlement provision.

### Cash flows

Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June 2025 was \$2.5 million, around \$2.1 million higher than at 30 June 2024. A net total of \$11.1 million was spent on investing activities during 2024-25, primarily due to the capital project to expand the Government's fish hatcheries at Arcadia and Snobs creek expansions.

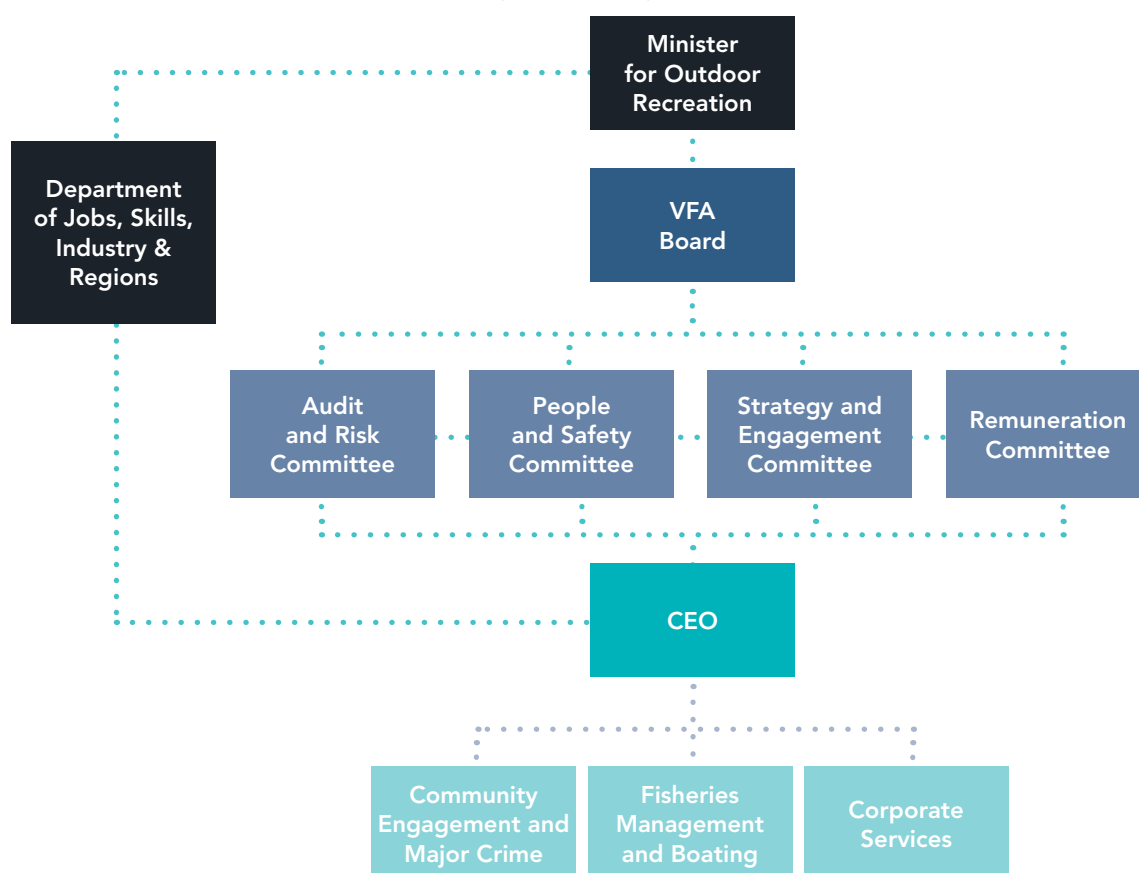




## Our governance arrangements and organisational structure

The VFA Act establishes the VFA and the VFA Board as the governing body of the VFA. The Board is responsible for the VFA's governance, strategic planning and risk management and is accountable to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation for the exercise of its functions.

The VFA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages the day-to-day operations of the VFA under the direction of the Board and is responsible for implementing the VFA's vision and ensuring performance objectives are met. The CEO is accountable to the Board for the VFA's expenditure, operational activities and administration.



### Our Minister

The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos was appointed Minister for Outdoor Recreation on 1 October 2023. He is also the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events and Minister for Environment.

### Our departmental portfolio

The VFA sits in the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR), and under the VFA Act, the role of the DJSIR Secretary is to work with the VFA on matters relating to public administration and governance, to provide advice to the Minister on matters relating to strategic fisheries policy and to coordinate the development of regulation relating to fisheries.

## Our Board and subcommittees

Members of the VFA Board are appointed by the Minister for Outdoor Recreation. The Board oversees the overall governance and strategic direction of the VFA and ensures appropriate risk management mechanisms are in place. Key responsibilities include:

- Setting significant strategic initiatives and business objectives for the VFA;
- Approving annual targets, budgets and financial statements, and monitoring financial performance against planned expenditure;
- Considering and approving the VFA's risk frameworks and monitoring the effectiveness of the risk management; and
- Providing oversight and monitoring of occupational, health and safety issues in the VFA.

Four subcommittees have been established to assist the Board in its functions and to provide independent assurance and assistance to the Board to ensure that the VFA meets its corporate governance requirements.

### Audit and Risk Committee

Key responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Committee are ensuring that the VFA operates effectively, efficiently, ethically and legally. It monitors the integrity and quality of the financial statements, compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, appropriateness of accounting policies, and reviews significant financial reporting judgements. The Committee determines the scope of the internal audit function, ensuring there are adequate and effectively used resources and coordination with external auditors. It maintains effective communication with external auditors and considers the recommendations from internal and external auditors. The Committee also ensures that processes are in place for the identification, management and reporting of business risks.

### People and Safety Committee

The People and Safety Committee's key responsibilities are to review, monitor and make recommendations to the Board on workplace health and safety, human resource policies, and the VFA's obligations under legislation and industrial instruments.

### Strategy and Engagement Committee

The Strategy and Engagement Committee oversees the development, implementation and periodic review of the VFA's Strategic Plan and the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, and monitors and reviews the VFA's Strategy Framework to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate. The Committee also reviews and advises on other strategies as requested by the Board in line with the VFA's strategic priorities.

### Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee was established in 2024, their key responsibilities are the performance planning, management and remuneration of the CEO.



## Our Board members



**Mr Graeme Dear**

*VFA Board Chair  
Remuneration Committee Chair*

Mr Dear has served on the VFA Board since inception and most recently as Deputy Chair. He has 30 years of experience in Public and Private sector administration. A keen fisher all his life, Graeme has extensive experience in fisheries practice, administration, research and policy.



**Dr Anne Astin AM PSM**

*VFA Board Deputy Chair  
People and Safety Committee Member  
Remuneration Committee Member*

Dr Astin has held executive positions in government, industry research and development, and advocacy organisations. Dr Astin currently chairs the Boards of Australia's Food Agility Co-operative Research Centre, Agriculture Innovation Australia, Dairy Food Safety Victoria and Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand.

She is a recipient of an Australia Medal (AM) and a Public Service Medal (PSM) for her services to Australia's food and agriculture industries. She is an inductee of Victoria's Women's Honour Roll, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology and a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Ms Leigh Mackay OAM**

*VFA Board Director  
Strategy and Engagement Committee Chair*

After working as a lawyer for 12 years, Ms Mackay has held senior executive positions in organisations such as CSR, the Port of Melbourne Authority and the National Gallery Victoria. Her recent board appointments have included the Victorian Heritage Council and the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust. She was awarded an OAM in 2019.



**Dr Bernadette Northeast**

*VFA Board Director  
People and Safety Committee Chair  
Remuneration Committee Member*

Dr Northeast is qualified in aquatic science and aquaculture, including a Ph.D. relating to Australian freshwater fish. Her science expertise is complimented by other directorships and regional community activities.



**Mr David Parkin***VFA Board Director**People and Safety Committee Member*

Mr Parkin is a Trawlwulwuy man from Tebrakunna country and a current Director on the Board of the Kinaway Chamber of Commerce. He brings a deep cultural perspective to the VFA and any future planned activities. Mr Parkin has widespread professional involvement in First Nations entrepreneurial and business activities and highly developed stakeholder engagement skills that consistently build productive working relationships. Much of his work has been in areas of regional Victoria, recognised by the AmCham Alliance Ambassador's Award in 2022.

**Mr George Lekakis AO***VFA Board Director**Audit and Risk Committee Member**People and Safety Committee Member*

George Lekakis is an experienced industry leader with a 45-year social work career in leadership roles in the not-for-profit sector and the Victorian Government. He is currently the President of the Victorian Government's creative and economic screen development agency, Vicscreen; and a board director of Chisholm Institute. Previously he was Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission 2001-2010, its longest serving Chairperson. He has also served as the Chief Executive of the New Hope Foundation, Fronditha Aged Care, and was an Executive Director at the Department of Business and Innovation. His professional career has also seen him a member of many other Government and non-government boards and committees in various executive roles. George has been a keen angler throughout his life.

**Ms Joelle Tabone***VFA Board Director**Audit and Risk Committee Chair*

Ms Tabone is a Chartered Accountant with over 20 years' experience providing business advisory and compliance services to a wide range of private, government and not-for-profit organisations. Her expertise spans several disciplines, including business strategy, accounting, structuring and financial reporting, and her significant business, governance and accounting skills enables her to assist the VFA from a position of knowledge and experience.

**Ms Wambui Migwe***VFA Board Director**Audit and Risk Committee Member**Strategy and Engagement Committee Member*

Ms Migwe is a strategic engagement and brand management professional with more than 20 years' experience in Australia and overseas. With academic qualifications in Finance and International Relations, Ms Migwe has held roles in infrastructure, not-for-profit and consumer goods sectors, always with a focus on strategy and engagement. Ms Migwe's professional experience is complemented by governance roles in the education and environmental management sectors, and membership to the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Table 9: Attendance at Board and Committee meetings

Members	Attendance				
	VFA Board	Audit and Risk Committee	People and Safety Committee	Strategy and Engagement Committee	Remuneration Committee
Graeme Dear, Chair	5/5	-	-	-	-
<i>Graeme Dear took a leave of absence from the VFA Board from 23 December 2024 until 12 May 2025.</i>					
Anne Astin AM PSM, Deputy Chair	8/8	-	3/3	-	1/1
<i>Anne Astin was appointed VFA Board Chair from 23 December 2024 until 9 May 2025.</i>					
George Lekakis AO	5/5	1/1	1/1	-	-
<i>George Lekakis was appointed to the VFA Board from 1 November 2024.</i>					
Bernadette Northeast	5/5	-	-	-	1/1
<i>Bernadette Northeast was appointed to the VFA Board from 1 November 2024. Bernadette's previous term of appointment ended on 30 June 2024.</i>					
Wambui Migwe	8/8	3/3	-	1/1	-
Leigh Mackay OAM	6/8	-	-	1/1	-
Joelle Tabone	8/8	4/4	-		1/1
David Parkin	5/8	-	2/3	0/1	-
Rob Hogarth*	-	4/4	-	-	-

\* External Audit and Risk Committee Member

^ Committee membership changes occurred at the 20 February 2025 Board meeting. Attendance reflects the number of committee meetings a member was appointed for during the 2024-25 financial year.

Note: There was a total of eight (8) VFA Board meetings, four (4) Audit and Risk Committee meetings, three (3) People and Safety Committee meetings, one (1) Strategy and Engagement Committee meeting, one (1) Remuneration Committee meeting in 2024-25.

## VFA divisions and executive leaders

The VFA is managed by a senior executive team who work closely with the Board to establish, monitor and review the VFA's strategic direction.

### Chief Executive Officer – Mr Travis Dowling

Travis is an accomplished executive with over 21 years' experience in senior leadership and management roles across natural resources and politics in Victoria and the Northern Territory. Travis was appointed to the role of Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria in June 2015 and continued as the CEO of the VFA when the Authority commenced on 1 July 2017.

As CEO, Travis is supported by a highly experienced and cohesive executive team specialising in regulation and enforcement, policy, science, fisheries management and program implementation. The role is also directly responsible for over 195 staff across Melbourne and regional Victoria.



Divisions	Executive Leaders
<b>Community Engagement and Major Crime</b> The Community Engagement and Major Crime Division undertakes engagement and enforcement activities directed at protecting our fisheries and ensuring sustainable and responsible fishing. The division also undertakes state-wide investigations and compliance operations to address serious fisheries criminal activity.	<b>Director - Ian Parks</b>
<b>Fisheries Management and Boating</b> The Fisheries Management and Boating Division delivers core regulatory marine and freshwater fisheries management, fisheries science, and aquaculture management services, including undertaking fish stock assessment and monitoring and setting total allowable commercial catch for the rock lobster, abalone, giant crab, scallop, pipi, octopus and urchin fisheries. The Division delivers the VFA fish production and stocking program stocking 10 million fish into over 240 waters across Victoria. The Division also administers recreational and commercial licensing, quota trading, permitting and commercial catch and effort reporting, recreational fishing improvement activities and supports the disbursement of Recreational Fishing Licence funds to improve recreational fishing in Victoria. The Division includes the Better Boating Victoria (BBV) team responsible to make recreational boating cheaper, easier and more accessible for all Victorians. BBV oversees the reinvestment of boaters' licence and registration fees through the Better Boating Fund while progressing the state's biggest ever ramp construction program.	<b>Director - Luke O'Sullivan</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b> The Corporate Services Division supports the VFA and CEO in managing the day-to-day operations of the VFA. The Corporate Services Division provides essential support functions such as finance, human resources, IT, facilities management and governance to enable the organisation to operate efficiently and meet its strategic objectives.	<b>Chief Operating Officer - David Buntine</b> <b>Chief Financial Officer - Simon Leverett</b>

## Occupational health and safety

### Occupational health and safety

The goal of the VFA's *Occupational Health and Safety Strategy Operating Plan* is to ensure all staff remain safe and healthy at work, through a focus on safety leadership, safe behaviour, and safe systems and structure.

During the 2024-25 financial year, the VFA continued to build on its strengths and act on opportunities for improvement in all areas of health and safety. We are proud of our continued efforts and achievements in putting our safety, the safety of our team and the community first.

As part of the Strategy, a Health & Wellbeing Program has been progressively implemented across the VFA, with staff given access to key tools and promotions with which to improve their health and wellbeing, specifically addressing mental, physical, and social health. Examples of topics covered, information and tools provided include: RUOK day, mental health and resilience, mindfulness, dealing with burnout, the virtual gym, sleep strategies, women's heart health, social strategies, and conflict de-escalation training for events staff.

### Safety Leadership and Training

The VFA acknowledges that the level of safety leadership capability within an organisation directly impacts on the culture, behaviours and therefore the safety performance. The VFA continued its safety training programme through online modules and in person delivery.

The Executive and senior leaders continue to engage in the safety process through our *Stop for Safety* Program and safety interactions.

The VFA Executive continued to carry out safety interactions which have been completed for over five years now. These informal meetings afford VFA staff the chance to raise OH&S issues directly with executives and senior leaders.



## Safety performance

Table 10: The VFA's safety performance over three years.

Measure	Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Incidents</b>	No. of incidents <sup>^</sup>	28	36	32
	Rate per 100 FTE	15.1	19.78	17.58
	No. of incidents requiring first aid/or further medical treatment	14	17	5
<b>Hazards</b>	No. of hazards	18*	5	10
	Rate per 100 FTE	9.83	2.75	5.49
<b>Claims</b>	No. of Standard Claims	1	3	4
	Rate per 100 FTE	0.55	1.64	2.19
	No. of lost time claims	0	2	1
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	1.10	0.54
	No. of claims exceeding 13 weeks	0	2	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	1.10	0
<b>Return to work</b>	Percentage of claims with RTW plans <30 days	100%	0%	0%
<b>Executive Safety Interactions</b>	No. of sites visited to conduct safety interactions	12	9	12

<sup>^</sup> There were no fatalities.

\* During 2022-23, a number of close household/social COVID-19 contacts were being recorded as hazards in Periscope (OHS incident reporting system). These have not been included in the hazard number in the table as they were not workplace contacts.

## Employment conduct principles

The VFA is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing staff. The selection processes ensure applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably on the basis of the key selection criteria and other accountabilities without discrimination.

Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.





## Public sector values and employment principles

The *Public Administration Act 2004* established the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC). The VPSC's role is to strengthen public sector efficiency, effectiveness and capability, and advocate for public sector professionalism and integrity.

The VFA has policies and practices that are consistent with the VPSC's employment standards and provide for fair treatment, career opportunities and the early resolution of workplace issues.

The VFA has advised its employees on how to avoid conflicts of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts and how we deal with misconduct. The VPSC Code of Conduct and VFA Policies are available through the VFA intranet. Employees of the VFA can request a review of an action taken that relates to their employment in accordance with *Public Administration Act 2004*.

The following table discloses the annualised total salary for senior employees of the VFA, categorised by classification. The salary amount is reported as the full-time annualised salary.

**Table 11. Annualised total salary, by \$20 000 bands, for executives and other senior non-executive staff**

Income band (salary)	Executives	STS	PS	SMA	SRA	Other
< \$160 000						
\$160 000 – \$179 999						
\$180 000 – \$199 999		3				
\$200 000 – \$219 999		1				
\$220 000 – \$239 999		3				
\$240 000 – \$259 999	1	1				
\$260 000 – \$279 999	2		1			
\$280 000 – \$299 999						
\$300 000 – \$319 999	1					
\$320 000 – \$339 999						
\$340 000 – \$359 999						
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>			

Notes:

(a) The salaries reported are for the full financial year, at a 1-FTE rate, and exclude superannuation.

(b) There are one employee employed on a part-time basis at a 0.4 FTE rate.

## Comparative workforce data

Table 12 discloses the head count and full-time staff equivalent (FTE) of all active public service employees of the VFA employed in the last full pay period in June of the current reporting period, and in the last full pay period in June of the previous reporting period (2024).



Table 12. Details of employment levels in June 2025 and 2024

June 2025										
All employees			Ongoing			Fixed Term		Casual		
	Number (Headcount)	FTE	Full-time (Headcount)	Part-time (Headcount)	FTE	Number (Headcount)	FTE	Number (Headcount)	FTE	
Demographic data	Gender									
	Women	71	61.7	39	18	51.5	11	10	3	0.20
	Men	124	121.0	94	3	96	24	24	3	0.64
	Self-described	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	195	182	133	21	147.5	35	34	6	0.84
	Age									
	< 30	26	24	10	0	10	14	13.6	2	0.49
	30-39	50	48.30	34	6	38.3	10	10	0	0
	40-49	45	40	32	4	34.6	5	5	4	0.36
	50-59	46	44.6	37	4	39.6	5	5	0	0
60+	28	25.4	20	7	25	1	0.4	0	0	
TOTAL:	195	182	133	21	147.5	35	34	6	0.85	
Classification data	VPS1-6 grades									
	VPS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	VPS 2	15	11.2	2	1	2.60	8	8	4	0.65
	VPS 3	38	33.6	19	6	22.8	11	10.6	2	0.19
	VPS 4	53	51.6	42	5	45.6	6	6	0	0
	VPS 5	46	44.8	38	4	40.8	4	4	0	0
	VPS 6	23	22.1	18	4	21.1	1	1	0	0
	Senior Employees									
	STS 7	8	7.4	7	0	7	1	0.4	0	0
	PS	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
	SMA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Executives	4	4	0	0	0	4	4	0	0
	Other	7	6.6	6	1	6.6	0	0	0	0
	Total Employees	195	182	133	21	147.5	34	34	6	0.84

June 2024										
All employees			Ongoing			Fixed Term		Casual		
	Number (Headcount)	FTE	Full-time (Headcount)	Part-time (Headcount)	FTE	Number (Headcount)	FTE	Number (Headcount)	FTE	
Demographic data	Gender									
	Women	63	55.17	38	19	51.53	5	3.6	1	.04
	Men	119	117.34	97	2	98.6	18	18	2	.74
	Self-described	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	182	172.51	135	21	150.13	23	21.6	3	.78
	Age									
	<30	19	17.74	12	0	12	5	5	2	.74
	30-39	47	45.3	33	6	37.3	8	8	0	0
	40-49	46	44.63	38	4	41.03	4	3.6	0	0
	50-59	43	41.4	34	4	36.8	5	4.6	0	0
60+	27	23.44	18	7	23	1	.4	1	.04	
TOTAL:	182	172.51	135	21	150.13	23	21.6	3	.78	
Classification data	VPS1-6 grades									
	VPS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	VPS 2	4	2.34	1	0	1	.6	2	.74	
	VPS 3	38	35.04	22	5	25.4	10	9.6	1	.04
	VPS 4	53	51.73	45	4	47.73	4	4	0	0
	VPS 5	50	47.8	39	8	44.8	3	3	0	0
	VPS 6	24	23.2	20	4	23.2	0	0	0	0
	Senior Employees									
	STS 7	8	7.4	7	0	7	1	.4	0	0
	PS	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
	SMA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Executives	4	4	0	0	0	4	4	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Employees	182	172.51	135	21	150.13	23	21.6	3	.78

Note: FTE numbers rounded to two decimal places

## Workforce inclusion policy

The VFA is working towards creating an inclusive working environment where equal opportunity and diversity are valued, and that reflects the communities we serve.

The VFA *Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Framework 2019 – 2024* (the Framework) has four key focus areas: flexibility, inclusion, gender equality, and life stage. The Framework guides our actions around the focus areas, which are reported to the VFA's People and Safety Board Committee.

### 1. Flexibility

The VFA has continued to support flexible working arrangements through its *Flexible Work Arrangements Policy and Procedure*, which may include but is not limited to flexible start and/or finish times; days of work, such as part-time work or compressed full-time hours; patterns of work, such as job-sharing arrangements, and the location of work, such as working from home or another location.

### 2. Inclusion

The VFA's emphasis has been on raising staff awareness, connection and gathering data. Through regular communication, staff have been encouraged to update their demographic data in the Human Resources system to enable the VFA to have a snapshot of its diverse demographic profile and further inform programs and initiatives. This has led to an increase from 20% of staff entering their data to 45% of staff. While some of this information entered is incomplete it has provided greater deidentified intersectional data. The VFA has also continued implementation of the:

- VFA's *Aboriginal Engagement Strategy*, a review of the strategy has commenced recognising the need to develop relationships over time, building an understanding of each other and how we can work together.
- VFA *Accessibility Action Plan 2021 - 2025* with Disability Awareness training released to all staff. Further detail is provided in the Other Disclosures section of the report.
- Victorian Government's *Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022-32* by working with its portfolio department DJSIR
- VFA's *Multicultural Diversity Action Plan 2023 – 2025*, noting the establishment of the Respect and Inclusion Focus Group detailed under Gender Equality section below.

### 3. Gender Equality

Under the VFA's Gender Equality Action Plan 2021 - 2025 (GEAP) actions were undertaken and completed over the year, notably:

- One of the strategies and related actions in the Gender Equality Action Plan 2021–25 (GEAP) is to generate collaboration during the implementation of the GEAP by establishing a cross-functional cross-level diverse working group. In line with this and the VFA value to treat everyone with respect and embrace diversity, a Respect and Inclusion Focus Group (Focus Group) has been established to support the development, and implementation of all VFA's strategies and actions relating to diversity and inclusion, not just the GEAP. The group has met three times.
- Gender Impact Assessment in-house training was piloted with tools and templates in late 2024. Two more groups were trained in February 2025 to further test the tools and templates.
- The Sexual Harassment Policy and reporting procedure was reviewed and updated in 2024.

- On 1 October 2024 the Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Sector notified the VFA that it was compliant under the Equal Opportunity Act 2020 on both the Progress Audit and Progress Report. In February 2024, for the reporting period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023, the VFA were required to:
  - complete a progress audit to collect, compare, and submit information about workplace gender equality
  - submit a progress report, drawing on our audit data and other information, to demonstrate whether our actions are achieving positive change towards workplace gender equality, and in our public programs, policies and services.

#### 4. Life Stage

The VFA continues to use flexible working arrangements and other supports to assist staff who have parental and caring responsibilities, returning from a career break or want to transition to retirement. These arrangements are made while balancing the needs of business operations.

#### Executive officer data

For the VFA, an executive officer is defined as a person employed as an executive under Part 3 of the Public Administration Act 2004 (PAA). For a public body, an executive is defined as an executive under Part 3 of the PAA or a person to whom the Victorian Government's Public Entity Executive Remuneration Policy applies. All figures reflect employment levels at the last full pay period in June of the current and corresponding previous reporting year.

The following tables disclose the executives of the VFA for 30 June 2025:

- Table 13 discloses the total number of executives for the VFA, broken down by gender and also discloses the variations, denoted by 'var', between the current and previous reporting periods; and
- Table 14 provides a reconciliation of executive numbers presented between the Report of Operations and Note 9.9 'Remuneration of executives' in the financial statements.

**Table 13: Total number of executives for the VFA, broken down into gender**

Class	All			Women			Men			Self-described		
	# 2025	# 2024	Var.	# 2025	# 2024	Var.	# 2025	# 2024	Var.	# 2025	# 2024	Var.
SES-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n	n	n
SES-2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	n	n	n
SES-1	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	n	n	n
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>n</b>

The number of executives in the Report of Operations is based on the number of executive positions that are occupied at the end of the financial year. Note 9.9 in the financial statements lists the actual number of Executives and the total remuneration paid to Executives over the course of the reporting period. The financial statements note does not include the Accountable Officer, nor does it distinguish between executive levels or disclose separations. Separations are executives who have left the VFA during the relevant reporting period. To assist readers, these two disclosures are reconciled below.

**Table 14: Reconciliation of executive numbers**

	2025	2024	2023	2022
Executives (financial statement Note 9.9)	3	3	3	2
Accountable Officer (CEO)	1	1	1	1
Less Separations	0	0	0	0
<b>Total executive numbers at 30 June</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>







## Local Jobs First

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003*, introduced in August 2018, brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and the Major Project Skills Guarantee Policy (MPSG), which were previously administered separately.

Departments and public sector bodies are required to apply the Local Jobs First Policy in all projects valued at \$3 million or more in Metropolitan Melbourne or for state-wide projects, or \$1 million or more for projects in regional Victoria.

The MPSG applies to all construction projects valued at \$20 million or more.

The MPSG guidelines and the VIPP guidelines will continue to apply to MPSG-applicable and VIPP-applicable projects, respectively, where contracts have been entered into prior to 15 August 2018.

### Projects commenced – Local Jobs First Standard

During 2024-25, the VFA commenced three (3) Local Jobs First Standard projects totalling \$13.54 million. All these projects were located in regional Victoria, with an average commitment of 98.9 per cent of local content. The MPSG did not apply to any of these projects. No projects were commenced that occurred statewide.

The commitments made as part of the Local Jobs First policy for these projects are as follows:

- an average local content commitment of 98.9 per cent of was made
- a total of 18.92 jobs (annualised employee equivalent (AEE)) were committed, including the creation of 5.19 new jobs and the retention of 13.73 existing jobs (AEE)
- 17 tenderers prepared Local Industry Development Plans (LIDP) across the three projects.
- The successful tenderers committed to engaging thirty-two (32) small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through the supply chain on the commenced Standard Projects.

## Government advertising expenditure

In accordance with the Financial Reporting Direction 22H, the details of government campaigns with a total media spend of \$100,000 or greater (exclusive of GST) must be detailed in the annual report. In 2024-25, the VFA expended \$524,085 on a reportable government advertising campaign, as detailed in the table below.

**Table 15: Details of government advertising expenditure for campaigns with a media spend of \$100,000 or more**

Name of campaign	Campaign summary	Advertising (media) expenditure (excl GST)	Creative and campaign development expenditure (excl GST)	Research and evaluation expenditure (excl GST)	Print and collateral expenditure (excl GST)	Other campaign expenditure (excl GST)	Total
Recreational Fishing Licence and Operations	The VFA commits funds collected from recreational fishing licence sales into material, such as the Recreational Fishing Guide, for the recreational fishing community	\$0	\$8,790	\$0	\$30,044	\$485,251	\$524,085

## Consultancy expenditure

### Details of consultancies (valued at \$10,000 or greater)

In 2024-25, there were seven consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2024-25 in relation to these consultancies is \$463,324 (excluding GST).

Details of individual consultancies are outlined in Table 16.

**Table 16: Details of consultancies valued at \$10 000 or greater incurred in 2024-25**

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (excl GST)	Expenditure 2023-24 (excl GST)	Future expenditure (excl GST)
Vidler Stephen Michael T/A Fishtech Services	Native Fish Production specialist advice FRDC program for captive breeding Macquarie Perch	465,000	129,900	82,800
The Trustee For Birdanco Practice Trust	2024-25 Internal Audit Services	272,727	79,910	159,267
Range Consulting Pty Ltd	Tarago Reservoir Boat Ramp – Multi Criteria Analysis for Tarago Reservoir Boat Ramp Upgrade Project	106,729	34,625	57,829
The Marsden Jacob Unit Trust	GVP Reform Working Group - facilitation, modelling and report Go Fishing Victoria - Lapsing Program Evaluation	148,675	136,712	11,963
Heritage Insight Pty Ltd	Investigation of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage for Altona Boat Ramp facility and prepare Cultural and Heritage Management Plan for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Corporation	56,866	31,751	0
Arup Australia Pty Ltd	To undertake a desktop review of current Crown land governance/management arrangements in Victoria, and to provide advice and recommendations on alternative Crown land management options that could be considered.	45,000	45,000	0
The Trustee For Brash Family Trust	Culture, Health and Wellbeing Review – Phase Two Partnering on approved recommended actions	37,743	5,425	0

The above Consultancy projects are across multiple years. The Future expenditure (excl GST) should be read as the balance as of 30 June 2025.

### Details of consultancies under \$10 000

The VFA did not enter into any consultancies under \$10,000 during 2024-25.

## Reviews and studies expenditure

There were no reviews and studies undertaken in 2024-25 other than the standard internal and external audits.



## Information and communication technology expenditure

### Details of information and communication technology (ICT) expenditure

For the 2024-25 reporting period, the VFA had a total ICT expenditure of \$2,877,204, with the details shown in Table 17 below.

**Table 17: VFA operational ICT expenditure in 2023-25**

All operational ICT expenditure Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure	ICT expenditure related to projects to create or enhance ICT capabilities		
	Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure	Operational expenditure	Capital expenditure
\$2,877,204	\$432,327	\$1,884,877	\$560,000

The ICT expenditure refers to the VFA's costs in providing business enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

Non-BAU ICT expenditure relates to the development of a fishing licence management system. BAU ICT expenditure is all remaining ICT expenditure that primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

## Disclosure of major contracts

In accordance with the requirements of government policy and accompanying guidelines, the VFA must disclose any and all contracts greater than \$10 million in value that it entered into during the year ending 30 June 2025. Details of contracts that have been disclosed in the Victorian Government Contracts Publishing System can be viewed on the Buying for Victoria Tenders Portal.

Contractual details have not been disclosed for contracts where disclosure is exempted under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) and/or government guidelines.

Specific contract information has not been disclosed for contracts where such information is withheld under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic) (FOI Act) or other laws or government policies.

The contractual details with BMD Urban Pty Ltd for VFA Arcadia native fish hatchery expansion has been disclosed as at 1 Nov 2024 by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

## Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act* (Vic) 1982 (the FOI Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by the VFA. The purpose of the FOI Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by government departments, local councils, Ministers and other bodies subject to the FOI Act.

An applicant has a right to apply for access to documents held by the VFA. This comprises documents both created by the VFA or supplied to the VFA by an external organisation or individual, and may also include maps, films, microfiche, photographs, computer printouts, computer discs, tape recordings and videotapes.

The Act allows a department to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information. Examples of documents that may not be accessed include cabinet documents; some internal working documents; law enforcement documents; documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice; personal information about other people; and information provided to a department in-confidence and information that is confidential under another Act.



Under the Act, the FOI processing time for requests received is 30 days. However, when external consultation is required under s29, 29A, 31, 31A, 33, 34 or 35, the processing time is 45 days. Processing time may also be extended by periods of 30 days, in consultation with the applicant. With the applicant's agreement this may occur any number of times. However, obtaining an applicant's agreement for an extension cannot occur after the expiry of the timeframe for deciding a request.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by the VFA, under section 49A of the FOI Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

### **Making a request**

FOI requests can be lodged online at [online.foi.vic.gov.au](https://online.foi.vic.gov.au). An application fee of \$31.80 applies. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large and the search for material time consuming.

Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to the Department's Freedom of Information team, as detailed in s17 of the Act.

When making an FOI request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, clearly identify what types of material/documents are being sought and be accompanied by the application fee to be a valid request.

Requests for documents in the possession of the VFA should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority  
GPO Box 4509  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Enquiries can be made to the VFA's FOI Officer via email at [corporateservices@vfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:corporateservices@vfa.vic.gov.au).

### **FOI Statistics for the 2024-25 period**

During the 2024-25 period the VFA received three applications. Of these requests, one request was from Members of Parliament, and two requests were from the general public.

The VFA made two FOI decisions during the 12 months ended 30 June 2025.

There was one decision made within the statutory time periods. Of the decisions made outside time, one was made within a further 45 days and no decisions were made in greater than 45 days. Of the total decisions made, no decisions granted access to documents in full, two granted access in part and no decisions denied access in full. No decisions were made after mandatory extensions had been applied or extensions were agreed upon by the applicant. Of requests finalised, the average number of days over/under the statutory time (including extended timeframes) to decide the request was 1 day.

### **Further information**

Further information regarding the operation and scope of FOI can be obtained from the FOI Act, regulations made under the FOI Act and from [ovic.vic.gov.au](https://ovic.vic.gov.au)

### Compliance with the *Building Act 1993*

The VFA has a presence in 27 locations across Victoria. Operations in those locations are delivered from a total of 38 office and depot sites. The VFA has management responsibility for 11 sites and depots, either through a Committee of Management appointment or lease agreement.

The VFA complies with its obligations under the *Building Act 1993*, the Building Regulations and associated statutory requirements and amendments. The VFA undertakes significant proactive scheduled maintenance to ensure these facilities are presented in a safe and serviceable condition. The VFA engages industry experts to provide condition audits and to complete inspections of and provide reports on its owned and leased buildings to ensure compliance with building standards and regulations.

In 2024-25, the VFA completed four major projects greater than \$50,000:

- Construction of a new hatchery building at Arcadia
- Construction of a new processing facility at Arcadia

### Competitive Neutral Policy

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure that where services compete, or potentially compete, with the private sector, any net advantage arising from government ownership is accounted for if it is not in the public interest. Government businesses are required to set a competitively neutral price, which accounts for any net advantage that comes from public ownership. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on removing resource allocation distortions.

The VFA ensures Victoria fulfils its requirements on competitive neutrality reporting as required under the Competition Principles Agreement and Competition and Infrastructure Reform Agreement.

### Compliance with the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012* (the PD Act) encourages and assists people in making disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The PD Act provides protection to people who make disclosures in accordance with the PD Act and establishes a system for the matters disclosed to be investigated and rectifying action to be taken.

The VFA does not tolerate improper conduct by employees, nor the taking of reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct. It is committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, or conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety or the environment.

The VFA will take all reasonable steps to protect people who make such disclosures from any detrimental action in reprisal for making the disclosure. It will also afford natural justice to the person who is the subject of the disclosure to the extent it is legally possible.

### Reporting Procedures

Disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by the VFA or any of its employees may be made to any of the following personnel:

- The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions;
- The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions' Protected Disclosure Coordinator;
- The VFA Chief Executive Officer;
- The manager or supervisor of the person making the disclosure;
- The manager or supervisor of the person who is the subject of the disclosure; or
- A person acting in any of the above roles.

Alternatively, disclosures may also be made directly to the Independent Broad-based Anticorruption Commission:

Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street  
Melbourne, VIC 3000  
Phone: 1300 735 135  
Internet: [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

### Further information

As an Authority within the portfolio of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, the VFA or any of its employees can access the Protected Disclosure Policy and Procedures, which outline the system for reporting disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by the VFA or any of its employees and/or officers, on the Department's intranet.

**Table 18: Disclosures under the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012***

	2022-23 number	2023-24 number	2024-25 number
The number of disclosures made by an individual to the VFA and notified to the Independent Broad-based Anticorruption Commission	0	0	0
Assessable disclosures	0	0	0

### Compliance with the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*

The VFA has taken all practical measures to comply with its obligations under the *Carers Recognition Act 2012* (the CR Act). These include:

- ensuring our staff have an awareness and understanding of the care relationship principles set out in the CR Act; and
- considering the care relationships principles set out in the CR Act when setting policies and providing services, such as flexible working arrangements and leave provisions to ensure that these comply with the statement of principles in the CR Act.

## Compliance with the *Disability Act 2006*

The *Disability Act 2006* reaffirms and strengthens the rights of people with a disability and recognises that this requires support across the government sector and within the community.

The VFA has complied with its obligations under the Disability Act to prepare a Disability Action Plan for the purpose of reducing barriers to access goods, services and facilities, reducing barriers to a person with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment, promoting inclusion and participation in community and achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices that discriminate against people with a disability.

The VFA *Accessibility Action Plan 2021 - 2025* has three focus areas: building awareness through access to information; attracting and recruiting people with disability and supporting career development; and creating an accessible and inclusive environment for engagement with and the delivery of our services to people with a disability.

### Reducing barriers to accessing goods, services and facilities

The VFA has continued to reduce barriers to accessing goods, services and facilities. The VFA has continued to partner with other organisations to provide tailored events for people living with disability, maintaining the application of established site selection criteria for events such as Vic Fish Kids, to reduce barriers to accessibility at VFA events.

The VFA is upgrading boat ramps and jetties across Victoria to improve all-abilities access, helping more people enjoy our waterways. Expanding accessible boating facilities is a key goal of the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy 2021–2030 and recent Better Boating action plans.

Key highlights during the 2024-25 year included:

- Hansa C Cranes have also been installed at the Queenscliff and Apollo Bay boat ramp facilities. The Hansa C Crane hoists people with a disability or mobilities issues from the boating pontoon or jetty into their boat, removing barriers to their participation in boating.
- Works have recently completed on the Victoria Park, Echuca boat ramp to improve accessibility. This upgrade included a renewal and upgrade of the wet ramp, an all-abilities walkway, an accessible floating pontoon and the installation of a Hansa C-Crane. The new pontoon is fitted with a gradient indicator, to assist users with mobility aids to determine if they need assistance travelling down the ramp.
- Designs finalised and construction tender released for an upgrade to the Blue Rock Lake boat ramp facility, that will include replacement of the existing pontoon with a new all-abilities accessible pontoon. Construction of the upgraded facility will be completed in the latter half of 2025.
- At Port Welshpool, an all-abilities upgrade is underway and is expected to be completed by early 2026. The upgrade includes the installation of a Hansa C-Crane and a new pontoon that is accessible to those with a disability or low mobility.
- Designs finalised and construction tender released for an upgrade to the Blue Rock Lake boat ramp facility, that will include replacement of the existing pontoon with a new all abilities accessible pontoon.



### Reducing barriers to persons with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment

The VFA is committed to providing career development, coaching and mentoring to support progression and improve overall engagement and job satisfaction for employees living with a disability. The VFA also continues to support the employment of Victorians living with disability through the implementation of our social procurement processes seeking product and service providers who employ people living with a disability.

The People and Culture team released Disability Awareness online training to all staff in December 2024 with a requirement for staff to complete the training as part of their professional development plan.

### Promoting inclusion and participation in the community

Both our Education and Events teams have a network within the disability sector who they work closely with in delivering inclusive education programs and events catering for all children and families.

Throughout the year the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre (MFDC) provided education services as part of its holiday programs that included Autism Camp Australia sessions for camp participants. A further six education sessions were run for children and adults living with disability.

### Achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices that discriminate against people with a disability

The VFA continues to provide education to staff and engages with groups representing and supporting people living with disability. Informed by the engagement we:

- Design and implement education programs and community events in partnership with people with disability, and
- Work with groups and land managers to improve access and participation in recreational fishing and boating.

## Compliance with other legislation

### Disclosure of Emergency Procurement

In 2024-25, the VFA did not need to activate Emergency Procurement.

### Social Procurement Framework

The VFA is compliant with the Victorian Government Social Procurement Framework and prioritises the following Social Procurement objectives:

- Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people
- Opportunities for Victorians with disability
- Opportunities for Victorian priority jobseekers
- Sustainable Victorian regions
- Sustainable Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors.

During 2024-25, the VFA:

- incorporated Social Procurement Framework objectives and outcomes into regular procurement planning
- continue existing engagements with suppliers that are Victorian Aboriginal businesses.

### Environmental Reporting

The VFA is committed to environmental sustainability in its operations. The VFA supports the Victorian public sector in adopting new technology that lowers emissions and increases environmental sustainability. The VFA's total electricity consumption in VFA offices is at Table 19 and a description of the vehicle fleet is in Table 20.

**Table 19: Total electricity consumption segmented by source**

Indicator	2023-24	2024-25
Total electricity consumption (MWh)		
Purchased electricity at departmental offices - consolidated	2061.96	3087
Not directly purchased but from outside the organisation	n/a*	n/a
Total electricity offsets (MWh)	0	0

\* Electricity not directly purchased is provided through a Service Level Agreement for office accommodation and not itemised.

**Table 20: Transportation - Number and proportion of vehicles in the organisational boundary segmented**

The VFA's fleet is comprised of 84 vehicles and 41 powered watercraft that are essential to the VFA's business and operational requirements.

Number and proportion of vehicles	2023-24 (number)	Proportion (%)	2024-25 (number)	Proportion (%)
Total number and proportion	125	100	139	100
Road vehicles	84	67	88	63
Passenger vehicles - Internal combustion engines	71	57	71	51
Petrol	12		12	
Diesel	53		53	
Hybrid	6		6	
Electric propulsion	0		0	
Goods vehicles/trucks	13	10	17	12
Diesel	13		17	
Marine vessels	41	33	51	37
Powered boats	35		43	
Jet skis	6		8	

### Environmentally sustainable design in new buildings - NABERS Energy ratings

The VFA did not newly complete or occupy owned office buildings and has no plans for new construction or substantial fit-outs.

## Compliance with the *Fisheries Act 1995*

Under section 101 of the Fisheries Act 1995, the VFA is required to report on the number of personal searches conducted each year, including the type and number of priority species found during those searches.

In 2024-25, there was nine personal searches conducted. Priority species were found during four searches and no priority species were identified in another five searches. The priority species identified for each search are detailed below:

- Search 1: 25 Abalone (10 Abalone in shell and 15 shucked\*) located.  
\* 5 shucked Abalone were presented on request prior to a personal searching being conducted.
- Search 2: 11 shucked Abalone located.
- Search 3: 9 shucked Abalone located.
- Search 4: 5 shucked Abalone located.

## Compliance with DataVic Access Policy

The VFA did not have any datasets requiring submission to the DataVic website in 2024-25.

## Disclosure of procurement complaints

Nil reports.

## Asset Management Accountability Framework maturity assessment

The following section summarises the VFA's assessment of maturity against the requirements of the Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF). The AMAF is a non-prescriptive, devolved accountability model of asset management that requires compliance with 41 mandatory requirements. These requirements can be found on the DTF website .

The VFA's target maturity rating is 'competence' (level 3 on Figure 1 below), meaning systems and processes are fully in place, consistently applied and systematically meeting the AMAF requirement, including a continuous improvement process to expand system performance above AMAF minimum requirements.

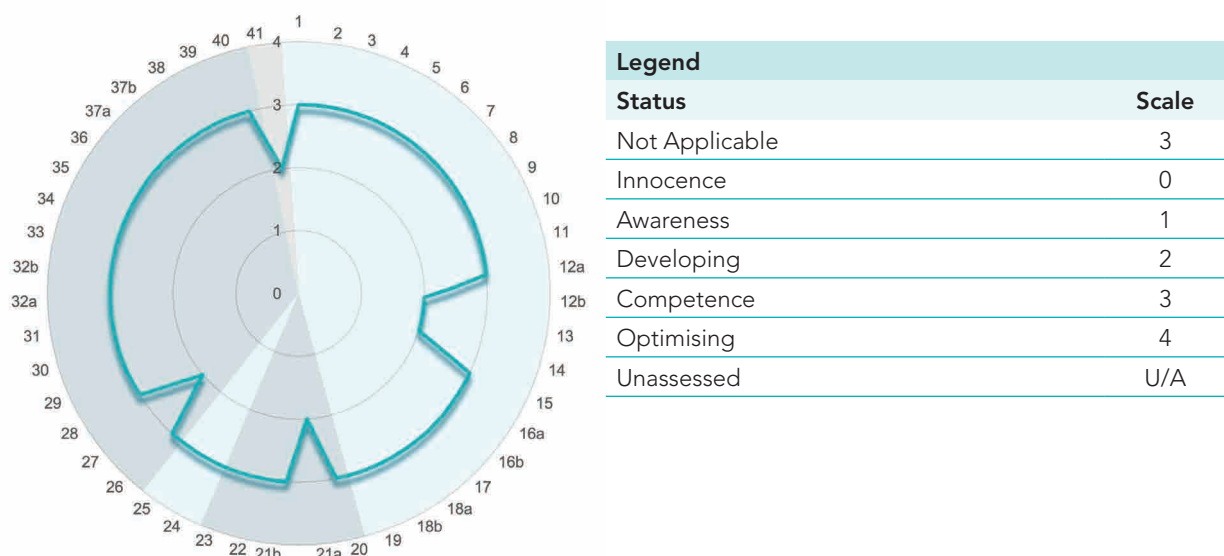


Figure 1: VFA AMAF maturity assessment

**Leadership and Accountability (requirements 1-19)**

The VFA has met its target maturity level under most requirements within this category. However, the VFA only partially complied with three measures relating to the monitoring of asset performance. There is no material non-compliance reported in this category. Plans for improvement are being developed to improve the VFA's maturity rating in these areas.

**Planning (requirements 20-23)**

The VFA has mostly met its target maturity level in this category. There is no material non compliance reported in this category. Work is ongoing to better link the VFA's asset plan with its asset strategy.

**Acquisition (requirements 24 and 25)**

The VFA met its target maturity level in this category.

**Operation (requirements 26-40)**

The VFA partially met its target maturity level under this category. There is no material non compliance reported in this category. The VFA continues to develop its competence in monitoring asset condition and performance, including its asset information management systems and processes.

**Disposal (requirement 41)**

The VFA partially met its target maturity level under this category. There is no material non compliance reported in this category. The VFA is continuing to develop its asset disposal processes to ensure at least full competence.

**Additional departmental information available on request**

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the Department and are available on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

- a. A statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers of the VFA;
- b. Details of shares held by a senior officer as a nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary;
- c. Details of publications produced by the entity about the entity, and how these can be obtained;
- d. Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the entity;
- e. Details of any major external reviews carried out by the entity;
- f. Details of major research and development activities undertaken by the entity;
- g. Details of overseas visits undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit;
- h. Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the entity to develop community awareness of the entity and its services;



- i. Details of assessment and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees;
- j. General statements on industrial relations within the entity and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes;
- k. A list of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved; and
- l. Details of all consultancies and contractors engaged, services provided, and expenditure committed.

The information is available on request, subject to the provisions of the FOI Act, from:

Chief Financial Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority  
Level 19, 1 Spring St  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Phone: 136 181

## Attestation for financial management compliance with Standing Direction 5.1.4

The Victorian Fisheries Authority Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement

I, Graeme Dear, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the Victorian Fisheries Authority has complied with the applicable Standing Directions under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.



**Graeme Dear**  
VFA Board Chair  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

23 October 2025





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## Declaration in the financial statements

The attached Financial Statements for the Victorian Fisheries Authority have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2024 and financial position of the Victorian Fisheries Authority at 30 June 2025. At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 23 October 2025.



**Graeme Dear**  
VFA Board Chair  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

23 October 2025



**Travis Dowling**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

23 October 2025



**Simon Leverett**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

23 October 2025

# VAGO audit report



## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Board of the Victorian Fisheries Authority

<b>Opinion</b>	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Victorian Fisheries Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balance sheet as at 30 June 2025</li> <li>• comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended</li> <li>• cash flow statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information</li> <li>• declaration in the financial statements.</li> </ul> <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2025 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure.</p>
<b>Basis for Opinion</b>	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
<b>Other information</b>	<p>The Board is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.</p> <p>In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a materially misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>
<b>Board's responsibilities for the financial report</b>	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

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**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE  
29 October 2025



Paul Martin  
*as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria*



## Comprehensive operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	(\$ thousand)	
		2025	2024
<b>Income from transactions</b>			
Grants	2.2.1	74,360	73,622
Sale of services	2.2.2	92	413
Bank Interest	2.2.3	246	92
<b>Total revenue and income from transactions</b>		<b>74,697</b>	<b>74,127</b>
<b>Expenses from transactions</b>			
Grant disbursements	3.1	(22,020)	(19,083)
Employee benefits	3.2.1	(31,277)	(25,724)
Depreciation and amortisation	4.1.1	(4,017)	(3,819)
Interest expense	6.1.2	(128)	(47)
Laboratory and livestock expenses	3.3	(5,405)	(5,782)
Contracts and services	3.4	(3,861)	(5,749)
Computer services and equipment	3.5	(2,317)	(2,763)
Other operating expenses	3.6	(9,672)	(11,303)
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>(78,698)</b>	<b>(74,269)</b>
<b>Net result from transactions</b>		<b>(4,001)</b>	<b>(143)</b>
<b>Other economic flows included in net result</b>			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	8.1	613	464
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	8.1	(1,371)	(434)
<b>Total other economic flows included in net result</b>		<b>(759)</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Net result</b>		<b>(4,759)</b>	<b>(113)</b>
<b>Other economic flows – other comprehensive income</b>			
Total other economic flows – other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Comprehensive result</b>		<b>(4,759)</b>	<b>(113)</b>

The above comprehensive operating statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

## Balance sheet as at 30 June 2025

	Note	(\$ thousand)	
		2025	2024
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	6.3	2,477	417
Receivables	5.1	10,722	15,297
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>13,199</b>	<b>15,713</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Land	4.1	6,840	6,840
Buildings	4.1	37,684	30,276
Plant and equipment	4.1	6,381	6,245
Intangible assets	4.2	1,020	460
Other non-financial assets	5.3	1,027	795
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>52,951</b>	<b>44,615</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>66,150</b>	<b>60,329</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	5.2	11,923	11,424
Borrowings - lease liabilities	6.1	3,642	4,043
Employee-related provisions	3.2.2	8,936	7,807
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>24,501</b>	<b>23,274</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>41,650</b>	<b>37,054</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Contributed Capital		53,788	44,433
Reserves		2,856	2,856
Accumulated surplus / (deficit)		(14,994)	(10,234)
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>41,650</b>	<b>37,054</b>

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

## Statement of changes in equity as at 30 June 2025

Note	(\$ thousand)			
	Contributed capital	Accumulated deficit	Physical asset revaluation reserves	Total
Balance at 1 July 2023	41,808	(10,121)	2,856	34,542
Contributed capital	2,626	-	-	2,626
Net result for the year	-	(113)	-	(113)
Balance at 30 June 2024	44,433	(10,234)	2,856	37,054
Balance at 1 July 2024	44,433	(10,234)	2,856	37,054
Contributed capital	9,354	-	-	9,354
Net result for the year	-	(4,759)	-	(4,759)
Balance at 30 June 2025	53,788	(14,994)	2,856	41,650

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

## Cash flow statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	(\$ thousand)	
		2025	2024
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Receipts from Victorian Government		78,529	64,819
Other receipts		1,518	703
Interest received		246	92
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>80,293</b>	<b>65,614</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments of grants and other transfers		(22,020)	(19,083)
Payments to suppliers and employees		(52,809)	(46,659)
Net GST payments (after ATO recoveries)		(1,080)	(25)
Interest and other costs of finance paid		(128)	(47)
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>(76,038)</b>	<b>(65,814)</b>
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>		<b>4,255</b>	<b>(200)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
(Purchase)/sale of non-financial assets		(10,796)	(5,588)
Receipts from/(payments) for plant and equipment		353	464
<b>Net cash flows from / (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(10,443)</b>	<b>(5,124)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Contributed capital from Victorian Government		9,355	2,626
Repayment of finance leases		(1,106)	(1,092)
<b>Net cash flows from / (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>8,248</b>	<b>1,534</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>2,060</b>	<b>(3,790)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		417	4,207
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>2,477</b>	<b>417</b>

The above cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.



# 1. About this report

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (the VFA) is a statutory authority of the State of Victoria, established under the Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016 by amendment to the Victorian Fisheries Act 1995. The VFA commenced operations as an independent authority on 1 July 2017. The VFA is integrated into the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) portfolio.

Its principal address is:  
1 Spring Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the Report of Operations, which does not form part of these financial statements.

## Basis of preparation

The financial statements are Tier 2 general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements-Simplified Disclosures for Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and Financial Reporting Direction 101 *Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards*.

The VFA is a Tier 2 entity in accordance with FRD 101. These financial statements are the first general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures. The VFA's prior year financial statements were general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (Tier 1). As VFA is not a 'significant entity' as defined in FRD 101, it was required to change from Tier 1 to Tier 2 reporting effective from 1 July 2024.

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the VFA.

Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions have been applied by management for Note disclosures:

- 3.2.2 Employee Benefits in the Balance Sheet,
- 4.1 Property, Plant and Equipment; and
- 7.3 Fair value determination.

These financial statements cover the Victorian Fisheries Authority as an individual reporting entity and include all the controlled activities of the VFA.

Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 unless otherwise stated. Figures in the 2024-25 Financial Statements may not add due to rounding.

### Recreational fishing licences trust account

The Recreational Fishing Licences Trust Account operates under section 151B of the *Fisheries Act 1995* to disburse revenue derived from the sale of recreational fishing licences to projects that will further improve recreational fishing opportunities in Victoria, and to fund costs incurred in the administration of recreational fishing licences.

The Recreational Fishing Licences Trust is a controlled trust under the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR). As an administrator for the Recreational Fishing Licences Trust, DJSIR disburses funds to third parties including the VFA.

### Compliance information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs), which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Where appropriate, those AAS paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied.

Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

## 2. Funding our delivery services

### Introduction

The VFA's objective is to effectively manage Victoria's fisheries resources and invest in boating infrastructure across the State. The VFA works with stakeholders to deliver sustainable fishing and aquaculture for future generations, clear resource access and sharing arrangements amongst the community, and increased economic, social and cultural value through management, consultation and compliance.

Funding for the VFA is predominately provided as grants from its portfolio department, the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR). Grant funding was provided by DJSIR from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

### Structure

#### 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

#### 2.2 Revenue and Income from transactions

##### 2.2.1 Grants

##### 2.2.2 Sale of services

##### 2.2.3 Bank interest

#### 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

	Note	2025	2024
(\$ thousand)			
<b>Income from transactions</b>			
Grants	2.2.1	74,360	73,622
Sale of services	2.2.2	92	413
Bank interest	2.2.3	246	92
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>74,697</b>	<b>74,127</b>

Income is recognised to the extent it is probable the economic benefits will flow to the VFA and the income can be reliably measured. The Sale of Services income was higher in 2023-24 primarily due to funding received from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) to lead and deliver scientific research projects.

#### 2.2 Income from transactions

<b>2.2.1 Grants</b>			
(\$ thousand)			
		2025	2024
<b>Income recognised as income of non-for-profit entities</b>			
General purpose		72,687	68,743
Other specific purpose		1,673	4,879
<b>Total grants</b>		<b>74,360</b>	<b>73,622</b>

General purpose grants are provided to the VFA by its portfolio department - to deliver the VFA's operating activities and government priorities. Total expenditure in 2024-25 was higher than 2023-24 primarily due to funding provided for additional boating infrastructure milestone payments, and the cost of redundancy payments.

Other specific purpose grants was lower in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24 as a result of the recognition of funding received from for the Arcadia Visitors Centre and Native Fish Conservation Hatchery projects respectively that primarily occurred in 2023-24.

#### Grants recognised under AASB 1058

The VFA has determined that the grant income included in the table above under AASB 1058 has been earned under arrangements that are either not enforceable and/or linked to sufficiently specific performance obligations. The VFA receives grants primarily from its portfolio department, which largely reflects government funding for the delivery of the VFA's operating activities and the government's policy priorities. Payments received to fund the repayment of finance leases and to deliver the Government's capital priorities are recognised as Contributed Capital.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the VFA has an unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the asset, the VFA recognises any related contributions by owners, increases in liabilities, decreases in assets, and revenue ('related amounts') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- contributions by owners, in accordance with AASB 1004;
- revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

#### 2.2.2 Sale of services

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
Sale of services	92	413
<b>Total services</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>413</b>

Sale of services are recognised when an invoice is issued, which establishes the entitlement to the payment.

#### 2.2.3 Bank interest

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
Bank interest	246	92
<b>Total services</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>92</b>

Interest income includes bank interest received on cash and deposits. Bank interest was higher in 2024-25 due to higher cash balances throughout the year.

## 3. The cost of delivering services

### Introduction

This section details the major component of the expenses incurred by the VFA in delivering services and outputs. In Note 2 – Funding delivery of our services, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed; in this note, the costs associated with provision of services are recorded. Notes 4.1.1 and 6.1.2 provide additional information regarding depreciation, amortisation and interest expense.

### Structure

#### 3.1 Grant disbursements

#### 3.2 Employee benefits

3.2.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

3.2.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

#### 3.3 Laboratory and livestock expenses

#### 3.4 Contracts and services

#### 3.5 Computer services and equipment

#### 3.6 Other operating expenses

### 3.1 Grant disbursements

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Grants to government agencies</b>		
Local government	5,599	12,890
Commonwealth government	162	64
Other government agencies	5,323	570
<b>Total grants to government agencies</b>	<b>11,084</b>	<b>13,524</b>
<b>Grants to external organisations and individuals</b>		
Other non-government agencies	10,936	5,559
<b>Total grants to external organisations and individuals</b>	<b>10,936</b>	<b>5,559</b>
<b>Total grants and other transfers</b>	<b>22,020</b>	<b>19,083</b>

Grant disbursements are contributions of the VFA's resources to another party for general or specific purposes where there is no expectation that the amount will be repaid in equal value (either by money, goods or services).

Grants can be either operating or capital in nature. Grants can be paid as general purpose grants, which refer to grants that are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be paid as specific purpose grants, which are paid for a particular purpose and / or have conditions attached to their use.

Grant expenses are recognised in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable. Total grant payments for 2024-25 were higher than 2023-24 primarily due to the timing of milestones grant payments for boating projects falling due. The allocation of grant expenses between local government, other government agencies, and non-government agencies changes from year to year and is dependent upon the asset owner for the specific boating infrastructure upgrades undertaken throughout the year.



### 3.2 Employee benefits

#### 3.2.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
Salaries, wages and other on-costs	23,579	21,061
Redundancy payment voluntary	2,577	-
Annual leave and long service leave expenses	2,399	2,287
Superannuation Employer Contribution	2,721	2,375
<b>Total employee benefits</b>	<b>31,277</b>	<b>25,724</b>

Employee benefit expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy and termination payments, WorkCover premiums, defined benefits superannuation plans, and defined contribution superannuation plans.

Salaries, wages and other on costs increased by around \$2.5 million between 2023-24 and 2024-25 primarily due to the impact of the 2024 Victorian Public Service (VPS) Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) wage increases and sign on bonuses.

The VFA undertook a Clause 11 restructure during 2024-25, which resulted in some employees being offered separation packages as well as opportunities for redeployment. The majority of these employees accepted separation packages prior to 30 June 2025, therefore the cost of these redundancies have been recognised as a 2024-25 expense.

Since 30 June 2025 a further four (4) redundancy separation packages were accepted by VFA employees. These further redundancy payments are considered a 2025-26 event because the decisions to accept redundancies occurred after 30 June 2025; had these employees chosen redeployment there would have been no redundancy payments to make. The cost of these redundancy payments will be recognised as a 2025-26 expense.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is the employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

The VFA does not recognise any defined benefit liabilities because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. Instead, the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) discloses in its annual financial statements the net defined benefit cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability (on behalf of the State as the sponsoring employer).

### 3.2.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Current provisions</b>		
Annual leave	2,420	2,313
Long service leave	4,543	4,390
Provisions for on-costs	1,241	526
<b>Total current provisions for employee benefits</b>	<b>8,205</b>	<b>7,229</b>
<b>Non-current provisions</b>		
Employee benefits	620	536
Provisions for on-costs	111	42
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>578</b>
<b>Total provisions for employee benefits</b>	<b>8,936</b>	<b>7,807</b>

**Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave:** Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the VFA does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

Liabilities for salaries and wages are recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the VFA expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability and measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, as the VFA does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as it is taken.

Employees of the VFA are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the VFA contributes to defined contribution plans. The defined benefit plan(s) provides benefits based on years of service and final average salary. Superannuation contributions paid or payable for the reporting period are included as part of employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement of the VFA.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

**Unconditional LSL** is disclosed as a current liability even where the VFA does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- undiscounted value if the VFA expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- present value if the VFA does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

**Conditional LSL** is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is a conditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current long service liability is measured at present value.

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave for services rendered to the reporting date.

### 3.3 Laboratory and livestock expenses

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Laboratory and livestock expenses</b>	<b>5,405</b>	<b>5,782</b>

The VFA's laboratory and livestock expenses predominately relates to fish stock purchases and fish production.

### 3.4 Contracts and services

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Contracts and services</b>	<b>3,861</b>	<b>5,749</b>

The VFA engages contractors to supplement existing staff resources. The VFA also engages specialist consultants for the purposes of performing a discrete task that facilitates decision-making through the provision of expert analysis and advice, or the development of a written report or other intellectual output.

Contract and services expenditure is lower in 2024-25 than for 2023-24 due to an increased focus on in-house expertise.

### 3.5 Computer services and equipment

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Computer services and equipment</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>2,763</b>

The VFA's computer services and equipment expenditure includes costs relating to IT expenses and telecommunications costs.

### 3.6 Other operating expenses

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Supplies and services</b>		
Service level agreement	644	1,134
Occupancy	3,676	4,304
Communications	627	513
Travel and accommodation	468	419
Vehicle, equipment and marine vessel expenses	1,223	1,494
Other administrative expenses	3,035	3,439
<b>Total other operating expenses</b>	<b>9,672</b>	<b>11,303</b>

Other operating expenses include supplies and services costs which are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. Other administrative expenses were lower in 2024-25 than for 2023-24 primarily due to the delivery of the Government's fishing and boating election commitments such as the Little Anglers Kits in 2023-24, which didn't occur in the current year. The expenses for service level agreement and occupancy also decreased because of improved efficiencies for shared service arrangements.

## 4. Key assets to support output delivery

### Introduction

The VFA controls land, buildings, plant and equipment those are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the resources that have been entrusted to the VFA for delivery of those outputs.

### Structure

#### 4.1 Property, plant and equipment

4.1(a) Right-of-use assets: buildings, plant, equipment and vehicles

4.1.1 Depreciation and amortisation

4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount

#### 4.2 Intangible assets

#### 4.1 Property, plant and equipment

	(\$ thousand)					
	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
<b>Land and Buildings</b>						
Land at fair value	6,840	6,840	-	-	6,840	6,840
Buildings and structures at fair value	36,541	33,139	(10,646)	(8,294)	25,894	24,845
Right-of-use Buildings	3,053	3,238	(2,264)	(2,060)	789	1,178
Buildings and structures - construction in progress	10,728	3,913	-	-	10,728	3,913
Building leasehold improvements	583	583	(310)	(243)	273	340
<b>Total Land and Buildings</b>	<b>57,745</b>	<b>47,713</b>	<b>(13,221)</b>	<b>(10,597)</b>	<b>44,524</b>	<b>37,116</b>
Plant and equipment at fair value	7,402	6,675	(3,819)	(3,257)	3,584	3,418
Motor vehicles under finance lease	4,075	4,005	(1,277)	(1,177)	2,798	2,828
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>11,478</b>	<b>10,680</b>	<b>(5,096)</b>	<b>(4,435)</b>	<b>6,381</b>	<b>6,245</b>
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>69,222</b>	<b>58,393</b>	<b>(18,317)</b>	<b>(15,032)</b>	<b>50,905</b>	<b>43,361</b>

#### Initial recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

A purchased item is recognised as property, plant and equipment if:

- it is probable that future economic benefits of the asset will flow to the entity;
- it is not of a consumable nature;
- it has a useful life of one year or more; and
- its individual cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold of greater than \$5,000.

Buildings and structures – construction in progress – has increased by \$6.8 million between 2023-24 and 2024-25 primarily due to the 2023-24 *Go Fishing Victoria* initiative to expand the Government's fish hatcheries.

The initial cost for non-financial physical assets under a finance lease is measured at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease.

Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition. Assets transferred as part of a machinery of government change are transferred at their carrying amount.

The fair value of property, plant, equipment and vehicles is normally determined by reference to each asset's depreciated replacement cost. For property, plant, equipment and vehicles, existing depreciated historical cost is generally a reasonable proxy for depreciated replacement cost because of the short lives of the assets concerned.

The cost of a leasehold improvement is capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the remaining term of the lease or their estimated useful lives.

#### Subsequent measurement

Property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset) and is summarised below by asset category.

#### Non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings

Non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings are valued using the market approach, whereby assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets that are considered to have nominal value.

#### Vehicles

Vehicles are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method. The VFA acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced fleet managers in the VFA who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

#### Plant and equipment

Fair value for plant and equipment that are specialised in use (such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern) is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method.

Refer to Note 7.3 – Fair value determination, for additional information on fair value determination of property, plant and equipment.

### 4.1(a) Right-of-use assets: buildings, plant, equipment and vehicles

The following tables are subsets of buildings, plant and equipment by right-of-use assets.

	(\$ thousand)					
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation	Net carrying amount	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation	Net carrying amount
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
Right-of-use Buildings	3,053	(2,264)	789	3,238	(2,060)	1,178
Motor vehicles	4,075	(1,277)	2,798	4,005	(1,177)	2,828
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,128</b>	<b>(3,542)</b>	<b>3,586</b>	<b>7,243</b>	<b>(3,238)</b>	<b>4,006</b>

#### Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees (Under AASB 16 – Leases from 1 July 2019) – Initial Measurement

The VFA recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentive received.



#### Right-of-use asset – Subsequent measurement

Property, plant and equipment (PPE) as well as right-of-use assets under leases are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset) and is summarised on the following page by asset category. In addition, for right-of-use assets the net present value of the remaining lease payments is often the appropriate proxy for fair value of relevant right-of-use assets.

The VFA depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful life of the right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as property, plant and equipment. The right-of-use assets are also subject to revaluation.

In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

#### Impairment of property, plant and equipment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

##### 4.1.1 Depreciation and amortisation

###### Charge for the period

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
Buildings and structures at fair value	2,353	2,230
Right-of-use Buildings	444	439
Building leasehold	67	67
Plant and equipment	561	503
Motor vehicles under finance lease	592	580
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,017</b>	<b>3,819</b>

All infrastructure assets, buildings, plant and equipment and other non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives, are depreciated. The exceptions to this rule include items under operating leases, assets held for sale, land and investment properties.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis at rates that allocate each asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes are included in the table below.

###### Useful life by asset class

	Years	
	2025	2024
Land	Indefinite	Indefinite
Buildings and structures at fair value	1 to 50	1 to 50
Right-of-use Buildings	Term of lease	Term of lease
Building leasehold	Term of lease	Term of lease
Plant and equipment	1 to 50	1 to 50
Motor vehicles under finance lease	1 to 3	1 to 3

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation methods are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period and adjustments made where appropriate.

Right-of-use assets and building leasehold improvements are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. Where the VFA obtains ownership of the underlying leased asset or if the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the entity will exercise a purchase option, the entity depreciates the right-of-use asset over its useful life.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives.

**Indefinite life assets:** Land is considered to have an indefinite life. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

#### 4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount

	(\$ thousand)							
	Land	Buildings and structures at fair value	Buildings Leasehold Improvement	Right-of-use Buildings	Buildings and structures - construction in progress	Property, Plant & Equipment	Motor vehicles under finance lease	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
Opening balance	6,840	24,845	340	1,178	3,913	3,417	2,828	43,361
Recognition of right-of-use assets in application of AASB16	-	-	-	105	-	-	-	105
Additions	-	-	-	-	10,216	468	797	11,482
Additions by recognition	-	-	-	-	-	259	-	259
Transfer in/out of assets under construction	-	3,401	-	-	(3,401)	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(2,353)	(67)	(444)	-	(561)	(592)	(4,017)
Disposals / write-offs	-	-	-	(50)	-	-	(235)	(285)
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>6,840</b>	<b>25,894</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>10,728</b>	<b>3,584</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>50,905</b>

## 4.2 Intangible assets

	(\$ thousand)					
	Water Access Rights		Software		Total	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Opening balance	460	218	-	-	460	218
Additions at cost	-	242	-	-	-	242
Additions at cost	-	-	560	-	560	-
Net book value at end of financial year	460	460	560	-	1,020	460

### Water Access Rights

The VFA purchased water access rights during 2020-21 and 2023-24 for use at the Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery. These access rights provide the VFA 400 megalitres of water each year (this was 200 megalitres per year at June 2023). These water rights have an indefinite useful life because its value does not diminish with use, and it can be used multiple times with no foreseeable limit.

### Software

The VFA are developing a replacement for its commercial licencing software. This software is due for completion during 2025-26.

## 5. Other assets and liabilities

### Introduction

This section sets out those other assets and liabilities that arose from the VFA's operations.

### Structure

#### 5.1 Receivables

#### 5.2 Payables

#### 5.3 Other non-financial assets

### 5.1 Receivables

Receivables includes amounts owing from government and non-government through accounts receivable, grants and taxes.

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Contractual</b>		
Receivables – government	9,624	14,363
Receivables – external	721	1,317
<b>Total contractual receivables</b>	<b>10,344</b>	<b>15,680</b>
<b>Statutory</b>		
GST input tax credit recoverable from the ATO	378	(384)
<b>Total statutory receivables</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>(384)</b>
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>10,722</b>	<b>15,297</b>

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as loans and receivables. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Contractual receivables at 30 June 2025 reduced by around \$4.3 million compared to 30 June 2024 primarily due to a higher closing cash balance and payments received from DJSIR during 2024-25 to pay for 2023-24 payables.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments.

#### Contractual receivables at amortised cost

VFA applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates. VFA has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due and select the expected credit loss rate based on VFA's past history, existing market conditions, as well as forward looking estimates at the end of the financial year.

Credit loss allowance is classified as other economic flows in the net result (refer to Note 8.1). Contractual receivables are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery and impairment losses are classified as a transaction expense. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the same line item.

#### Statutory receivables at amortised cost

The statutory receivables are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As the result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months of expected losses. No loss allowance has been recognised.

## 5.2 Payables

Payables includes short and long-term trade debt and accounts payable, grants and taxes.

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Contractual</b>		
Supplies and services	5,939	6,084
Deferred grant revenue	1,459	818
Other payables	4,486	4,402
<b>Total contractual payables</b>	<b>11,884</b>	<b>11,304</b>
<b>Statutory</b>		
Other payables	39	119
<b>Total statutory payables</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>11,923</b>	<b>11,423</b>

**Contractual payables** are classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represents liabilities for goods and services provided to the VFA prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid.

**Deferred capital grant revenue:** Consideration was received from Victorian State Government entities and the Commonwealth Government entities to support the Conservation Hatchery at Snobs Creek and regional fishing and camping facilities respectively. Payments were received upfront before performance obligations have been met and recognised as deferred capital grant revenue. Grant revenue is recognised progressively as performance obligations are met.

**Statutory payables** are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from a contract.

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days. No interest is charged on late payments for 'other payables'.

## 5.3 Other non-financial assets

<b>Current other non-financial assets</b>		
	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
Prepayments	1,027	795
<b>Total current other non-financial assets</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>795</b>

Other non-financial assets include prepayments which represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.



## 6. Financing our operations

### Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the VFA during its operations, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) and other information related to financing activities of the VFA.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments (such as borrowings). Notes 6.1 and 6.2 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

### Structure

#### 6.1 Borrowings

6.1.1 Maturity analysis of borrowings

6.1.2 Interest expense

#### 6.2 Leases

6.2.1 Finance lease liabilities

#### 6.3 Cash flow information and balances

#### 6.4 Commitments for expenditure

### 6.1 Borrowings

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Current borrowings</b>		
Finance lease liabilities	1,411	1,560
<b>Total current borrowings</b>	<b>1,411</b>	<b>1,560</b>
<b>Non-current borrowings</b>		
Finance lease liabilities	2,231	2,484
<b>Total non-current borrowings</b>	<b>2,231</b>	<b>2,484</b>
<b>Total borrowings</b>	<b>3,642</b>	<b>4,043</b>

Borrowings refer to interest bearing liabilities mainly raised from public borrowings raised through finance leases.

Borrowings are classified as financial instruments. All interest-bearing liabilities are initially recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, less directly attributable transaction costs.

The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the VFA has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss, or financial liabilities at amortised cost. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest-bearing liabilities. The VFA determines the classification of its interest-bearing liabilities at initial recognition. All of the VFA's interest-bearing liabilities are categorised as financial liabilities at amortised cost.

### 6.1.1 Maturity analysis of borrowings <sup>(a)</sup>

	Carrying amount	Nominal amount	(\$ thousand)				
			Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3-12 months	1-5 years	Over 5 years
<b>2025-24</b>							
Lease liabilities	3,642	3,581	536	196	679	2,170	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,642</b>	<b>3,581</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2023-24</b>							
Lease liabilities	4,043	3,993	501	183	875	2,434	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,043</b>	<b>3,993</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>2,434</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Maturity analysis represents the discounted cash flows of the VFA's lease liabilities.

### 6.1.2 Interest expense

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
Interest on finance leases	128	47
<b>Total interest expense</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>47</b>

Interest expense is the cost incurred in connection with borrowings. It includes interest on components of finance lease repayments. Interest expense is recognised as an expense in the period in which it is incurred.

## 6.2 Leases

### 6.2.1 Finance lease liabilities

Information about leases for which the VFA is a lessee is presented below.

#### The VFA's leasing activities

The VFA leases various properties and motor vehicles. The lease contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 1-5 years with an option to renew the lease after that date. Property lease payments are renegotiated upon renewal to reflect market rentals.

#### 6.2.1 (a) Right-of-use Assets

Right-of-use assets are presented in note 4.1(a).

#### 6.2.1 (b) Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Operating Statement relating to leases:

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
Interest on finance leases	128	47
Amortisation of right-of-use leases	1,036	1,019
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>1,066</b>

### 6.2.1 (c) Amounts recognised in the Statement of Cashflows

The following amounts are recognised in the Statement of Cashflows for the year ending 30 June 2025 relating to leases:

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
Interest and other costs of finance paid	128	47
Repayment of finance leases	1,106	1,092
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>1,139</b>

#### Recognition and measurement of leases as a lessee

For any new contracts entered into, the VFA considers whether a contract is a lease, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition the VFA assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations which are whether:

- the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the VFA and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- the VFA has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the VFA has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- the VFA has the right to take decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

#### Lease Liability – initial measurement

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable or the VFA's incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable;
- variable payments based on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- payments arising from purchase and termination options reasonably certain to be exercised.

#### Lease Liability – subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes in-substance fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or profit and loss if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

#### Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

The VFA presents right-of-use assets as 'property plant equipment' unless they meet the definition of investment property, in which case they are disclosed as 'investment property' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented as 'borrowings' in the balance sheet.

### 6.3 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash at bank. Due to the State's investment policy and funding arrangements, the VFA does not hold a large cash reserve in its bank accounts.

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
Total cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet	2,477	417
<b>Balance as per cash flow statement</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>417</b>

### 6.4 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST. Where it is considered appropriate and provides additional relevant information to users, the net present values of significant individual projects are stated. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

Total commitments payable				
	(\$ thousand)			
	Less than 1 year	Between 1 and 5 years	Over 5 years	Total
<b>Nominal amounts: 2025</b>				
Other operating commitments	4,805	2,174	-	6,978
Capital expenditure commitments	6,704	-	-	6,704
Grant commitments	2,437	424	-	2,861
<b>Total commitments (inclusive of GST)</b>	<b>13,946</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,544</b>
less GST recoverable	(1,171)	(232)	-	(1,403)
<b>Total commitments (exclusive of GST)</b>	<b>12,775</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,141</b>
<b>Nominal amounts: 2024</b>				
Other operating commitments	5,526	3,646	50	9,222
Capital expenditure commitments	1,683	-	-	1,683
Grant commitments	2,456	525	-	2,981
<b>Total commitments (inclusive of GST)</b>	<b>9,665</b>	<b>4,170</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>13,886</b>
less GST recoverable	(771)	(359)	(5)	(1,136)
<b>Total commitments (exclusive of GST)</b>	<b>8,894</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>12,750</b>

## 7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

### Introduction

The VFA is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements.

This section sets out financial instrument-specific information, including exposures to financial risks as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied. For the VFA, this related mainly to fair value determination.

### Structure

#### 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

##### 7.1.1 Categorisation

#### 7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

#### 7.3 Fair value determination

### 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

#### Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the VFA's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract (for example taxes, fines and penalties). Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 Financial Instruments: Presentation.

Guarantees issued on behalf of the VFA are financial instruments because, although authorised under statute, terms and conditions for each financial guarantee may vary and are subject to an agreement.

#### Categories of financial assets

##### Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- the assets are held by the VFA to collect the contractual cash flows; and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment. The VFA recognises the receivables assets (excluding statutory receivables) in this category.

The VFA recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and deposits; and
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

**Receivables** are financial instrument assets with fixed and determinable payments that are not quoted on an active market. These assets and liabilities are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method (and for assets, less any impairment).

The VFA recognises receivables (excluding statutory receivables) in this category.



**Derecognition of financial assets:** A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired;
- the VFA retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass through' arrangement; or
- the VFA has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
  - a. has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset; or
  - b. has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred control of the asset.

Where the VFA has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the VFA's continuing involvement in the asset.

### Categories of financial liabilities

**Financial liabilities at amortised cost** are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest-bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The VFA recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- payables (excluding statutory payables); and
- borrowings (including lease liabilities).

**Derecognition of financial liabilities:** A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised as another economic flow in the estimated consolidated comprehensive operating statement.

**Reclassification of financial instruments:** Financial assets are required to be reclassified between fair value through net result, fair value through other comprehensive income and amortised cost when and only when the VFA's business model for managing its financial assets has changed such that its previous model would no longer apply.

However, the VFA is generally unable to change its business model because it is determined by the Performance Management Framework (PMF) and all Victorian government departments are required to apply the PMF under the Standing Directions 2018 under the FMA.

If under rare circumstances an asset is reclassified, the reclassification is applied prospectively from the reclassification date and previously recognised gains, losses or interest should not be restated. If the asset is reclassified to fair value, the fair value should be determined at the reclassification date and any gain or loss arising from a difference between the previous carrying amount and fair value is recognised in net result.

Subsequent to initial recognition, reclassification of financial liabilities is not permitted.

## 7.1.1 Financial instruments: categorisation

	(\$ thousand)			
	Cash and deposits	Financial assets at amortised cost (AC)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost (AC)	Total
2025				
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>				
Cash and deposits	2,477	-	-	2,477
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	-	10,344	-	10,344
Other receivables	-	378	-	378
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>10,722</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,199</b>

<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>				
Supplies and services	-	-	5,939	5,939
Deferred capital grant revenue	-	-	1,459	1,459
Other payables	-	-	4,486	4,486
Finance lease liabilities	-	-	3,642	3,642
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,527</b>	<b>15,527</b>

	(\$ thousand)			
	Cash and deposits	Financial assets at amortised cost (AC)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost (AC)	Total
2024				
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>				
Cash and deposits	417	-	-	417
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	-	15,680	-	15,680
Other receivables	-	(384)	-	(384)
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>15,297</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,713</b>

<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>				
Supplies and services	-	-	6,084	6,084
Deferred capital grant revenue	-	-	818	818
Other payables	-	-	4,402	4,402
Finance lease liabilities	-	-	4,043	4,043
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,347</b>	<b>15,347</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

## 7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

### Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the VFA. These are classified as either quantifiable, where the potential economic benefit is known, or non-quantifiable.

The VFA did not have any significant contingent assets for this financial year. (2023-24: Nil).

### Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
  - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligations; or
  - the amount of the obligations cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contingent liabilities are also classified as either quantifiable or non-quantifiable. The VFA did not have any significant contingent liabilities for this financial year (2023-24: Nil).

## 7.3 Fair value determination

This section sets out information on how the VFA determined fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The following assets and liabilities are carried at fair value:

- financial assets and liabilities at fair value through operating result; and
- land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

### Fair value hierarchy

A number of inputs are used in determining fair values. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The VFA determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) is the VFA's independent valuation agency and monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

### How this section is structured

For those assets and liabilities for which fair values are determined, the following disclosures are provided:

- carrying amount and the fair value (which would be the same for those assets measured at fair value);
- which level of the fair value hierarchy was used to determine the fair value; and
- in respect of those assets and liabilities subject to fair value determination using Level 3 inputs:
  - a reconciliation of the movements in fair values from the beginning of the year to the end; and
  - details of significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value determination.

The VFA currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2024-25 reporting period.

The last scheduled full independent valuation of all VFA's non-financial physical assets was performed in 2020-21 by the Victorian Valuer General (VGV). An annual fair value assessment for 30 June 2025 using VGV indices did not identify any material changes in value.

In accordance with FRD 103, the VFA's next scheduled formal revaluation is in 2025-26.

### Specialised buildings

The VFA's buildings were reclassified from non specialised to specialised during 2020-21 to ensure consistency with the independent valuation of the VFA's buildings performed by the Valuer-General Victoria.

For the majority of the VFA's specialised buildings, the current replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

### Non-specialised land

Non-specialised land is valued using the market approach, whereby assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets that are considered to have nominal value.

To the extent that non-specialised land does not contain significant, unobservable adjustments, these assets are classified as Level 2 under the market approach.

### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method. There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2025. For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

### Motor vehicles under finance lease

Vehicles are valued using the depreciated cost method. The VFA acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced fleet managers who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

Asset class	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
Specialised buildings	Depreciated replacement cost	Recognised building cost indicators
Non-specialised land	Market approach	Cost per unit: Useful life of building
Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit: Useful life of Plant and equipment
Motor vehicles under finance lease	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit: Useful life of vehicle

## 8. Other disclosures

### Introduction

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

### Structure

- 8.1 Other economic flows included in net result
- 8.2 Responsible persons
- 8.3 Remuneration of executives
- 8.4 Related parties
- 8.5 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.6 Subsequent events
- 8.7 Other accounting policies
- 8.8 Style conventions

### 8.1 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions.

Other gains / (losses) from other economic flows include the gains or losses from:

- the revaluation of the present value of the long service leave liability due to changes in the bond interest rates; and
- additions by recognition reflect non-financial assets not previously recognised but were identified and capitalised in 2024-25

#### Other economic flows included in net result

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Net gain / (loss) on non-financial assets</b>		
Revaluation of land	353	464
Additions by recognition	259	-
<b>Total Net gain / (loss) on non-financial assets</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>464</b>
<b>Other gain / (loss) from other economic flows</b>		
Gain / (loss) arising from revaluation of long service leave liability	(1,371)	(434)
<b>Total other gain / (loss) on other economic flows</b>	<b>(1,371)</b>	<b>(434)</b>
<b>Total other economic flows included in net result</b>	<b>(759)</b>	<b>30</b>



## 8.2 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

The roles of Minister, Board of Directors and Accountable Officer for the VFA were performed by the following persons:

Minister for Outdoor Recreation	The Hon Steve Dimopoulos MP	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
Board Chairperson	Mr Graeme Dear	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 (inactive Board member 23 December 2024 to 12 May 2025)
Deputy Chairperson	Dr Anne Astin	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 (Acting Board Chairperson 23 December 2024 to 12 May 2025)
Director	Ms Joelle Tabone	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
Director	Ms Wambui Migwe	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
Director	Ms Leigh Mackay	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
Director	Mr David Parkin	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
Director	Dr Bernadette Northeast	1 November 2024 to 30 June 2025
Director	Mr George Lekakis	1 November 2024 to 30 June 2025
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Travis Dowling	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

### Accountable Officer's remuneration

Total remuneration received or receivable by the Accountable Officer in connection with the management of the VFA during the reporting period was in the range of \$320,000 - \$329,999 (2024: \$320,000 - \$329,999).

Other related transactions and loans requiring disclosure under the Directions of the Assistant Treasurer have been considered and there are no matters to report.

Amounts relating to ministers are reported in the financial statements of the Department of Parliamentary Services. For information regarding related party transactions of ministers, the register of members' interests is publicly available from: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/parliamentary-activity/tabled-documents/>

## 8.3 Remuneration of executives

The number of executive officers, other than ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provides a measure of full-time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered, and is disclosed in the following categories.

**Short-term employee benefits** include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

**Post-employment benefits** include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

**Other long-term benefits** include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

## Remuneration of executive officers

	(\$ thousand)	
	Total remuneration	
	2025	2024
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>741</b>
<b>Total number of executives</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total annualised employee equivalent (AEE) <sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

## 8.4 Related parties

The VFA is a statutory authority of the State of Victoria.

Related parties of the VFA include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

### Significant transactions with government-related entities

The VFA received funding in the form of grants from the Department of Jobs', Skills, Industry and Regions during the 2024-25 financial year.

The VFA also made payments to other government entities in the 2024-25 financial year.

During the year the VFA had the following significant government-related entity transactions:

Revenue and receivables transactions over \$10 000 with government-related entities					
Related party	Nature of transaction	2025		2024	
		(\$ thousand)		(\$ thousand)	
		Revenue	Receivables	Revenue	Receivables
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	Provision of grant revenue; receivable in relation to restructuring of	72,687	9,624	70,109	8
Game Management Authority	Administrative arrangements as well as grant revenue	509	-	280	42
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Lakes Entrance office Occupancy agreement between VFA and GMA for 2024-25	481	-	1,703	-
Department Of Government Service <sup>(a)</sup>	Capital grants for Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery and Intelligence service	250	76	190	-
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Vicfleet proceeds on disposal and LQMS/BAF Milestone payments	50	-	-	-

Note:(a) formerly Department of Treasury and Finance

**Expenditure and Payables transactions over \$10 000 with government-related entities**

Related party	Nature of transaction	2024 (\$ thousand)		2023 (\$ thousand)	
		Expenditure	Payables	Expenditure	Payable
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Boating infrastructure improvements, research and risk assessments.	4,130	598	1,300	728
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	Provision of Corporate Services as per Service Level Agreement and ICT	3,240	1,063	430	-
Department of Justice and Community Safety	Legal advice and Marine Radio cost	1,130	5	261	191
Department of Transport and Planning	Reimbursement of Radio payments on the VFA behalf. (2023-24 were primarily for IT and SLA charges - prior to change of shared service provider)	856	-	2,751	3,038
Parks Victoria	Grant payments for boating infrastructure upgrades	469	-	2,873	534
Victorian Managed Insurance Authority	Public and product liability, professional indemnity, and motor vehicle insurance	307	-	130	-
Safe Transport Victoria	Waterway Safety Monitoring System - MoU between VFA & STV	150	-	300	300
North Central Catchment Management Authority	Grant payments	92	-	89	-
Department Of Government Service <sup>(a)</sup>	Vicfleet Lease payments	21	-	208	187
Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation	Provision of Potable Water to Victorian Fisheries Authority	20	-	-	-
Cenitex	Network connections services for various VFA sites	18	-	-	-
Barwon Region Water Authority	Provision of Potable Water to Victorian Fisheries Authority	14	-	-	-
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Grant payments	-	-	150	60
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	Grant payments	-	-	105	71

Note:(a) formerly Department of Treasury and Finance

### Key management personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) of the VFA include:

- the Portfolio Minister;
- members of the board of directors; and
- the Chief Executive Officer.

Individual KMP are identified in Note 8.3 – Responsible persons.

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Minister receives. The Minister's remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

Compensation of key management personnel		
	(\$ thousand)	
	Total remuneration	
	2025	2024
<b>Total compensation <sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>459</b>	<b>448</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Note that the VFA's KMPs are excluded from the disclosure of remuneration of executive officers (Note 8.3 – Remuneration of executives)

### Transactions and balances with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of state government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public, e.g. stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and conditions consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Procurement Board requirements.

During the year the VFA made grant payments of \$469,000 to Parks Victoria, a related party of Board Chairperson Mr Graeme Dear. The terms and conditions of the grants were equivalent to those that prevail in arm's length transactions under the State's procurement processes.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the VFA there were no reportable related party transactions that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests. No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

### 8.5 Remuneration of auditors<sup>(a)</sup>

	(\$ thousand)	
	2025	2024
<b>Victorian Auditor-General's Office</b>		
Audit of the VFA financial statements	74	70
<b>Total remuneration of auditors</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>70</b>

Note:(a) The Victorian Auditor-General's Office is prohibited from providing non-audit services.

### 8.6 Subsequent events

The VFA undertook a Clause 11 restructure during 2024-25, which resulted in some employees being offered separation packages as well as opportunities for redeployment. The majority of these employees accepted separation packages prior to 30 June 2025, therefore the cost of these redundancies have been recognised as a 2024-25 expense.

Since 30 June 2025 a further four (4) redundancy separation packages were accepted by VFA employees. These further redundancy payments are considered a 2025-26 event because the decisions to accept redundancies occurred after 30 June 2025; had these employees chosen redeployment there would have been no redundancy payments to make. The cost of these redundancy payments will be recognised as a 2025-26 expense.

## 8.7 Other accounting policies

### Contributions by owners

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the VFA.

Additions to net assets that have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

Transfers of net assets arising from administrative restructurings are treated as distributions to or contributions by owners. Transfers of net liabilities arising from administrative restructurings are treated as distributions to owners.

### Accounting for the goods and services tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, except where GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation VFA. In this case, the GST payable is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis.

Commitments, contingent assets and liabilities are also stated inclusive of GST.

### Foreign currency balances/transactions

All foreign currency transactions during the financial year are brought to account using the exchange rate in effect at the date of the transaction. Foreign monetary items existing at the end of the reporting period are translated at the closing rate at the date of the end of the reporting period. Non-monetary assets carried at fair value that are denominated in foreign currencies are translated to the functional currency at the rates prevailing at the date when the fair value was determined.

Foreign currency translation differences are recognised in other economic flows in the consolidated comprehensive operating statement and accumulated in a separate component of equity, in the period in which they arise.



## 8.8 Style conventions

Figures in the tables and in the text have been rounded. Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components reflect rounding. Percentage variations in all tables are based on the underlying unrounded amounts.

The notation used in the tables is as follows:

-	zero, or rounded to zero
(xxx)	negative numbers
202x	year period
202x-2x	year period

The financial statements and notes are presented based on the illustration for a statutory authority in the 2024-25 Model Report for Victorian Government Departments.





## 1. Disclosure index

The VFA's Annual Report is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation and pronouncements. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the VFA's compliance with the statutory disclosure requirements.

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
<b>Standing Directions and Financial Reporting Directions</b>		
<b>Report of Operations</b>		
<b>Charter and purpose</b>		
FRD 22	Manner of establishment and the relevant Minister	2, 53
FRD 22	Purpose, functions, powers and duties	2
FRD 8	Departmental objectives, indicators and outputs	2, 39
FRD 22	Key initiatives and projects	6-38
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<b>Management and structure</b>		
FRD 22	Organisational structure	54
<b>Financial and other information</b>		
FRD 8	Performance against output performance measures	40-43
FRD 8	Budget portfolio outcomes	40-42
FRD 10	Disclosure index	126-127
FRD 12	Disclosure of major contracts	72
FRD 15	Executive disclosures	64
FRD 22	Employment and conduct principles	61
FRD 22	Occupational health and safety policy	60-61
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FRD 22	Application and operation of the Freedom of Information Act 1982	72-73
FRD 22	<i>Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of the Building Act 1993</i>	74
FRD 22	<i>Statement on the National Competition Policy</i>	74
FRD 22	<i>Application and operation of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012</i>	74-75
FRD 22	<i>Application and operation of the Carers Recognition Act 2012</i>	75
FRD 22	Details of consultancies over \$10,000	71
FRD 22	Details of consultancies under \$10,000	71
FRD 22	Disclosure of government advertising expenditure	70
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SD 5.2	Specific information requirements under Standing Direction 5.2	n.a
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<b>Declaration</b>		
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SD 5.2.1(a)	Compliance with Standing Directions	94
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<b>Other disclosures as required by FRDs in notes to the financial statements</b>		
FRD 9	Departmental Disclosure of Administered Assets and Liabilities by Activity	n.a
FRD 11	Disclosure of Ex gratia Expenses	130
FRD 13	Disclosure of Parliamentary Appropriations	n.a
FRD 21	Disclosures of Responsible Persons, Executive Officers and other Personnel (Contractors with Significant Management Responsibilities) in the Financial Report	118
FRD 103	Non-Financial Physical Assets	101-104
FRD 110	Cash Flow Statements	111
FRD 112	Defined Benefit Superannuation Obligations	98
FRD 114	Financial Instruments – general government entities and public non-financial corporations	112-116
<b>Legislation</b>		
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<i>Building Act 1993</i>		74
<i>Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012</i>		74
<i>Carers Recognition Act 2012</i>		75
<i>Disability Act 2006</i>		76
<i>Local Jobs Act 2003</i>		70
<i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>		V, 80, 81, 86, 94, 118
<i>Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016</i>		2, 51, 93
<i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>		12, 31, 35, 51 79, 93, 94



## 2. Image acknowledgements

The images used in this Annual Report have all been supplied internally by the VFA. (Where relevant, descriptions are from left to right and clockwise)

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Cover	Collage of VFA images
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1	VFA Employees stocking fish
4	VFA Employee handing out showbags at event
5	VFA employees harvesting native fish larvae
6	VFA employees with endangered freshwater catfish
7	Successfully breed fish at the VFA Conservation Hatchery, Snobs Creek
8	VFA employee and member of the public on 'Perch Search'
9	Field team at Grampians capturing and relocating River Blackfish
10	VFA employees surveying fish Surveyed fish
11	VFA employee at school holiday trout stocking
14	Commercially caught Giant Crab Commercially caught Giant Crab being held
16	Scuba diver at Kayaker's Reef Kayakers Reef
17	Fisherman using live sonar technology
18	FPMMAC River Rangers team and the Arthur Rylah Institute Magnificently proportioned golden perch from one of our trial sites
19	World Recreational Fishing Conference, Melbourne 2023 Image of Fisheries Management and Ecology Journal
20	VFA event with Congolese community Members of Congolese community fishing at VFA event
21	Various images at VFA events
22	Event staff photo at "Hooked on Portland" Group photo of Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating (WIRFAB) leaders at trade show
23	Flyfisher with brown trout
24	VFA employee giving talk at recreational fishing forum Audience at recreational fishing forum Image of long spined sea urchin
25	Sea buoys within Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves
26	VFA aquaculture event with educational information Fish samples for public tasting at VFA aquaculture event
27	Wild-caught Abalone
28	Audience pictured at VFA Murry Cod Conference, November 2024

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32	Kennington Reservoir Habitat Community members constructing fish hotels Aerial view of fish hatchery
33	Recreational Fisheries Management Update Cover Image, June 2025 VFA employee with Cod at Lake Elidon
34	Trout cod stocking VFA employee holding trout cod
36	Better Boating Victoria - Mahers Landing boat ramp Better Boating Victoria - St Leonards boat ramp and jetty Better Boating Victoria - Victoria Park boating facility, Echuca
37	Better Boating Victoria - New jetty at Inverloch Better Boating Victoria - Dual lane ramp, Mildura – Red Cliffs Better Boating Victoria - Boat ramp at Laanecoorie Better Boating Victoria - New car park at Fishermans Beach, Torquay
38	Better Boating Victoria - Boat ramp at Tankerton, French Island
39	Wheelchair access at boat ramp
53	Fisheries Officer stocking fish
56	VFA board members: VFA Board Chair, Mr Graeme Dear VFA Deputy Board Chair, Dr Anne Astin VFA Board Director, Ms Leigh Mackay OAM VFA Board Director, Dr Bernadette Northeast
57	VFA board members: VFA Board Director, Mr David Parkin VFA Board Director, Mr George Lekakis AO VFA Board Director, Ms Joelle Tabone VFA Board Director, Ms Wambui Migwe
59	VFA CEO, Travis Dowling
63	Happy VFA employee holding rainbow trout
69	Aerial view of Arcadia fish hatchery
83	VFA employee speaking with children at Queenscliff Marine Discovery Centre
137	VFA employee stocking rainbow trout

### 3. Grants and sponsorships payments

#### Grants and Sponsorships

During the 2024–25 financial year, the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) administered a range of targeted grants and sponsorships totalling \$23.4 million that supported commercial fishing, aquaculture, research, and boating infrastructure. This included industry representation funding through Fisheries Grant Levies, contributions to national fisheries research via the FRDC Research Levy, and infrastructure upgrades funded by the Better Boating Fund to improve safety, access, and maintenance at public boat ramps—ensuring they remain free and accessible to all Victorians.

Amounts attributed to recipients reflects actual amounts paid during 2024-25.

#### Recreational Fishing Licence

The Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) grants channels fishing licence revenue into projects that directly benefit recreational fishers across the state. These investments support improved access and facilities, habitat restoration, fisheries research, educational initiatives, and community events—helping to grow participation and ensure sustainable, enjoyable fishing experiences for all Victorians.

Recipient	\$'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,122</b>
Alpine Fly Fishers Inc	4
Association Of Geelong and District Angling Clubs Inc	41
Bairnsdale Christian Community School Inc	1
Ballarat District Anglers Association	18
Ballarat Fly Fishers Club Inc Old-53253757937	5
Ballarat High School	3
Casterton Angling Society Inc	1
Cobden Amateur Angling Club Inc	1
Corinella Boating & Angling Club Incorporated	4
Deakin University	80
Dunlop Bayswater Angling Club Inc	2
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	90
Fishcare Victoria Inc	331
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	150
Gannawarra Shire Council	6
Geelong Fly Fishing Club Inc.	5
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	8
Goulburn Valley Congolese Association Inc	4
Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation	20
Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation	5
Hindmarsh Shire Council	49
Howqua Angling Clubs Fish Protection Association Inc	2

Recipient	\$'000
Kyabram Anglers Club Inc	4
Kyneton Angling Club Incorporated	2
Lake Bullen Merri - South Beach Recreation Reserve	3
Lake Marma Public Park & Gardens Reserve Committee Of Management	72
Leopold Angling and Aquatic Club Inc	4
Mansfield & District Flyfishers Club	1
Melton City Council	45
Mending Casts Incorporated	20
Mitcham Angling Club and Fish Protection Society Inc	5
Nathalia Angling Club Inc.	5
Native Fish Australia (Victoria) Inc.	5
North Central Catchment Management Authority	92
Ozfish Unlimited Limited	137
Parks Victoria	42
Plus Sport Victoria Incorporated	2
Projex J Limited	5
Reclink Australia	36
The Australian Trout Foundation Inc	57
The Red Tag Fly Fishers Club Inc	67
The Trustee for the Salvation Army (Victoria) Property Trust	3
Torquay Angling Club Incorporated	45
Victoria Chinese Angling Association Incorporated	4
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body	540
Warrnambool City Council	61
Werribee River Association Inc.	3
Williamstown And Newport Anglers Club and Fish Protection Society Incorporated Victoria	33

### Restoration and Enhancement of Habitats

The VFA provides grants to invest in the restoration and enhancement of aquatic habitats across the state through the Vic Habitat Fund and strategic partnerships. These grants support a wide range of initiatives—from shellfish reef reconstruction in Port Phillip Bay and woody habitat installation in the Gippsland Lakes, to targeted conservation of endangered Macquarie perch through riparian rehabilitation, instream habitat creation, and collaborative research. By engaging local communities, angling groups, and environmental organisations, the VFA is driving long-term ecological improvements in Victoria's waterways.

Recipient	\$'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,146</b>
University Of Tasmania	5
Albert Park Yachting & Angling Club Incorporated	176
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	6
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	130
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	100
Glenelg - Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	118
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	163
Kiewa Valley Fishing Club Inc	45
Mallee Catchment Management Authority	90
North East Catchment Management Authority	225
Omeo Angling Club Incorporated	45
Ozfish Unlimited Limited	39
The Australian Trout Foundation Inc	4

### Fisheries Grant Levies

The VFA collects Fisheries Grant Levies (Fisheries Fees, Royalties and Levies Regulations 2008) from commercial wild-catch licence holders, quota unit holders, and fish receivers to support industry representation. These funds are fully distributed to organisations such as Seafood Industry Victoria and regional abalone associations, which advocate for their sectors by promoting the industry, advancing ecological sustainability, and strengthening engagement between fishers, government, and stakeholders

Recipient	\$'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>887</b>
Abalone Council Victoria Incorporated	179
Abalone Victoria (Central Zone) Limited	279
Seafood Industry Victoria Inc	241
Western Abalone Divers' Association Inc.	188



### Research Levy for Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

The Research Levy is collected from all commercial fishing licence holders, including aquaculture, to support the national Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC). Set at 0.25 per cent of the Gross Value of Production (GVP), the levy is fully disbursed to FRDC to fund research, development, and extension activities that drive innovation and sustainability across Australia's aquatic industries.

Recipient	\$'000
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	162

### Boating Grants

The **Better Boating Fund (BBF)**, administered by the **Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA)**, provides grants to boating facility asset managers to deliver major infrastructure upgrades that improve safety, access, and capacity at public boat ramps. These grants also support essential dredging and maintenance works, ensuring all public boating facilities remain free to use and accessible for all Victorians.

Recipient	\$'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,839</b>
Barwon Coast Committee of Management Incorporated	145
Bass Coast Shire Council	4,127
Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Incorporated	3,511
Boating Industry Association of Victoria Ltd.	8
Borough of Queenscliff Council	127
Buloke Shire Council	26
Campaspe Shire Council	535
Capel Sound Foreshores Committee of Management Inc	137
City Of Greater Geelong	569
Corinella Foreshore Reserve Incorporated	98
Crib Point Stony Point Foreshore Committee of Management Inc	127
Department Of Energy Environment and Climate Action	3,165
Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management Incorporated	70
East Gippsland Shire Council	75
Frankston City Council	253
Gannawarra Shire Council	39
Gippsland Ports Committee of Management Inc	419
Gippsland Southern Rural Water Corporation	111
Glenelg - Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	104
Glenelg Shire Council	87
Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation	775
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation	41
Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority	1,136

Recipient	\$'000
Hobsons Bay City Council	570
Horsham Rural City Council	10
Kingston City Council	137
Lake Cartcarrong Committee Incorporated	2
Lake Coorong/Lake Lascelles Committee of Management Inc	1
Loddon Shire Council	12
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	663
Moyne Shire Council	50
Parks Victoria	1,192
Safe Transport Victoria	150
Shire Of Strathbogie	9
South Gippsland Shire Council	66
Tooradin Foreshore Committee of Management Incorporated	52
Warneet Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management Incorporated	72
Wellington Shire Council	34
Whitecliffs To Camerons Bight Foreshore Reserves Committee of Management	8
Wyndham City Council	128

### Sponsorships

During the 2024–25, the VFA provided sponsorship funding to support a wide range of industry, tourism, media, and community initiatives that promote recreational and commercial fishing across Victoria. This included support for seafood festivals, fishing media platforms, regional tourism events, and industry forums.

Recipient	\$'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>
Women In Seafood Australasia Ltd	2
The Trustee for Bonnici Family Trust	30
San Remo District Tourism & Business Inc	10
Lee Rayner's Fishing Life Pty Ltd	10
Glenelg Shire Council	48
Freshwater Fishing Australia Pty. Ltd.	35
Crayfest Port Campbell Inc	5
Boating Industry Association of Victoria Ltd.	53
Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation Limited	18
Australian Fishing Trade Association Incorporated	16



