



# Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account 2024-25

A report to each House of Parliament on the disbursement  
of Recreational Fishing Licence Revenue





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**Cover image:** Over a kilometre of the Ovens River was rock-seeded and log-pinned through the Australian Trout Foundation's Bridging Waters project. The log and rock installations provide important habitat for native fish in the area, whilst stabilising water flows. This creates higher flow 'fish highway' zones and calmer areas of refuge. The project compliments previous habitat restoration works further upstream.

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# Foreword

## A report to each House of Parliament on the disbursement of Recreational Fishing Licence Revenue from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account, 2024-25

Each year, the Victorian Government utilises revenue from the sale of recreational fishing licences to fund an extensive range of programs and projects that create significant improvements and benefits for Victoria's recreational fisheries.

As the Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Fisheries Authority, I recognise the significant contribution that recreational fishing makes to the State's economy and the pleasure and social wellbeing it brings to people who enjoy this wonderful outdoor activity.

I would like to thank the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee, which provides valuable and timely advice on how licence funds should be disbursed through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

The 2023-24 round of the Large Grants Program saw over \$953,483 allocated to 13 new projects. These projects included planning for a Fly-Fishing Centre at Yarra Bend, construction of a new fish weighing gantry at Warrnambool, the assessment of the growth and condition of stocked estuary perch in various lakes and rivers, habitat restoration in the Gippsland Lakes, and installation of new fishing platforms at Lake Marma, Rainbow Lake, and Navan Park Lake, Melton, and upgrades to fishing platforms on the Maribyrnong River.

The 2023-24 round of the Commissioning Grants Program saw \$201,201 provide for the production of a range of popular education and communication products that assist recreational anglers in understanding and complying with fishing regulations, and \$169,300 for the monitoring of recreational fisheries at key locations including Port Phillip Bay, Western Port, the Gippsland Lakes, Corner Inlet, and the coastal Lakes Entrance fishery.

In addition, several Intermediate Grant applications were also approved. This included a grant of \$49,863 to the Australian Trout Foundation to complete a fish habitat project on the Ovens River, a grant of \$50,000 to the Torquay Angling Club to construct a fish cleaning facility at Torquay boat ramp, and a grant of \$9,500 to the Ballarat District Anglers Association to conduct a targeted carp electrofishing survey in Lake Wendouree.

The Small Grants Program saw over \$113,398 provided to angling clubs to run 36 separate events and activities. This program has funded over 490 projects worth more than \$1.3 million since its inception in 2010.

During 2024-25, Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account funds were also committed or disbursed to fund:

- Increased fish stocking across Victoria, including iconic native species such as Murray cod, golden perch and Australian bass, and the highly sought brown trout, rainbow trout, and chinook salmon.
- The deployment of Fisheries Officers to deliver enforcement and education and protect our valuable fisheries.
- Programs to get more Victorians fishing, which has included even more fish stocking as well as the staging of the Hooked on Festivals and the Vic Fish Kids events at various locations across the state.
- VRFish, which advocates recreational fishers' views to the Government to inform fisheries management.
- The Victorian Fishcare program, which delivers responsible fishing education and events to the community, and
- The costs incurred in the administration of the Recreational Fishing Licence and Grants Program.

It's wonderful to see that recreational fishers of all types and abilities are continually benefiting from the improvements that are made possible by contributing their fishing licence fees to creating sustainable recreational fisheries for all generations to enjoy.

It is with great satisfaction that I provide each House of Parliament this report on the receipts and disbursements from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account for 2024-25.



**Travis Dowling**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority  
05 / 11 / 2025

# Fisheries Act 1995

Pursuant to Section 151B(4) of the *Fisheries Act 1995*, the responsible Minister must cause a report on how amounts paid into the Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account were disbursed:

- (a) to be prepared by 1 October each year; and
- (b) to be laid before each House of Parliament on or before the seventh sitting day of that House after the report has been prepared.

For the information of Honourable Members, the RFL Trust Account came into effect on 1 April 2001.

The role of the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) is to administer the Recreational Fishing Licence Program and manage the amounts determined by the Minister for Outdoor Recreation for the purpose of improving recreational fishing.

The VFA also administers the Recreational Fishing Grants Program and supports to the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee, which provides advice to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation on how funds from the sale of licences should be spent to improve recreational fishing in Victoria.

The 2024-25 financial year is the twenty fourth full year of the RFL Trust Account's operation.

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office has audited the receipts received, and disbursements made from the RFL Trust Account in 2024-25.

# Community Engagement and Major Crime

In 2024-25, RFL Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,385,139 to the VFA's community engagement and compliance budget.

RFL Trust Account receipts, when added to ongoing recurrent funding of fisheries compliance (community engagement and enforcement) activities, contribute substantially to the delivery of recreational fisheries compliance services in Victorian coastal and inland locations.

Fisheries Officers have maintained good contact with recreational fishers in the field during the last year.

Table 1 summarises yearly totals of contacts in the recreational fishing sector. The work is divided into categories based on species, locations, or other activities. Over 28,395 total contacts were made with recreational fishers (including Marine Safety) by Fisheries Officers during the reporting period.

Compliance contacts (excluding Marine Safety only inspections) with Fisheries Officers totalled over 28,125 with Table 1 showing the number of offenders, verbal warnings, official warnings, infringement notices, and briefs of evidence for the year.

In addition, Fisheries Officers conducted 3,224 Transport Safety Victoria inspections resulting in 539 offenders, 267 verbal warnings, 280 official warnings, 142 infringement notices and zero briefs of evidence.

Fisheries Officers also attended 63 recreational fishing related shows, forums, clinics, and events (including angling club meetings), and the community engagement program had 4,306 participants.

All Fisheries Officers provide services to the recreational fishing sector and interact with recreational fishers through:

- Contact with recreational fishers in the field.
- Attending angling club meetings.
- Attending recreational fishing-related shows, family fishing events, forums, and clinics.
- Attending fish stocking events.
- Liaising with grant recipients regarding the successful completion of infrastructure projects under the annual Recreational Fishing Grants Program (Large Grants).
- Advising fisheries management on issues relating to recreational fishing.
- Assisting Fisheries Management, Policy, Science and Licencing Branch on matters relating to recreational fishing.
- Responding to recreational fishing issues raised from the 13FISH Offence Reporting Line.
- Producing recreational fishing-related media releases/distributing booklets and pamphlets.
- Investigating recreational fishing-related offences and prosecuting where necessary.
- Collecting intelligence related to recreational fishing offences.
- Participating in recreational fishing-related educational activities with school groups and the broader recreational fishing community; and
- Engaging with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The VFA in conjunction with the recreational fishing community, strives to achieve high levels of voluntary compliance among recreational fishers. By working collaboratively and by continuing to promote responsible and ethical fishing, we are better positioned to ensure both fish for now and fish for the future.

Table 1.

Recreational	Contacts with recreational fishers	Number of offenders	Verbal warnings issued	Official warnings issued	Infringement notices issued	Briefs of evidence compiled
Abalone Central Waters	1,284	271	45	196	198	17
Abalone (intertidal zone)	242	142	14	155	145	8
Abalone (other waters)	249	43	1	25	31	2
Bass yabbies	36	2	0	2	0	0
Bay & Inlet - other	1,057	66	10	27	25	0
Bay & Inlet - Gippsland Lakes	1,365	44	9	17	17	1
Bay & Inlet - Lakes Tyers	39	3	2	0	1	0
Bay & Inlet - Snowy River	28	6	0	1	0	1
Bay & Inlet - Port Phillip	8637	586	165	267	156	2
Bay & Inlet - Western Port	1,630	81	20	46	11	1
Corner Inlet	824	34	9	16	7	0
Estuary	1516	97	34	44	22	1
Freshwater	3526	203	78	99	32	0
Golden perch	1,712	61	26	22	10	0
Intertidal - other	329	91	18	42	36	1
Intertidal – Port Phillip Bay	224	92	34	55	43	1
Intertidal – Pipis	56	2	0	3	1	0
Intertidal - red shore crab	249	62	6	25	35	0
Marine Parks	194	95	32	30	44	1
McLoughlin's Beach Cockles	127	28	1	13	11	1
Murray cod	1,275	64	24	22	24	1
Ocean	4,422	289	60	180	80	0
Private Waters	23	1	0	0	0	1
Rock Fishing	42	7	1	4	3	0
Rock Fishing – Specified Rock Fishing	503	185	23	11	10	0
Rock lobster	234	39	12	31	16	0
Salmonids	1506	136	32	69	49	1
Sand crabs	734	27	5	8	18	0
Scallops	21	4	2	2	1	1
Spearfishing	442	23	6	13	4	0
Spiny Cray	297	40	17	33	14	0
Squid - cephalopods	599	15	2	4	8	2
Tourism Operators	1	0	0	0	0	0
Trout cod	3	2	0	0	2	0
Tuna	202	9	2	2	4	0
Yabbies - freshwater	115	12	5	6	0	0

# Fish Production and Stocking

In 2024-25, RFL Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,270,871 to the VFA's fish production and stocking budget. This includes \$775,349 of the base amount (approved by the Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group in May 2012 and ongoing) to support fish production and stocking from Snobs Creek and Arcadia, and \$1,495,522 from the RFL component of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative. These funds, along with state government funds enabled the VFA to stock 10.06 million fish in 2024-25. Details of the species stocked by region is shown in Table 2.

RFL Trust Account receipts, when added to state government funding of fish stocking and production activities, contribute significantly to the delivery of recreational fisheries state-wide stocking program.

The combined funds are used to operate the fish hatchery at Snobs Creek, meet costs associated with the delivery of fish across the state and for the purchase of additional fish.

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.

A list of all waters stocked can be found at <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/stockingdatabase>

Table 2.

Species	Barwon South West	Gippsland	Grampians	Hume	Loddon Mallee	Port Phillip	Grand Total
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>
Brown Trout	91,150	37,000	85,250	430,950	105,250	25,000	774,600
Chinook Salmon	85,830	-	-	-	-	-	85,830
Rainbow 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>



# Go Fishing Victoria

In 2024-25, RFL Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,069,307 towards the VFA's implementation of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative, to grow participation and provide more fishing opportunities.

RFL Trust Account receipts, when combined with state government funding, contribute significantly to the delivery of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative. The State Government has extended its commitment with Phase 3 of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative, which will see a further \$96 million invested to grow participation and fishing opportunities across the state.

The RFL investment has contributed significantly to several aspects of the plan, including improved access and facilities for anglers, fish stocking, and events and other community engagement activities. A summary of achievements in each of those areas is presented below.

## Improved Access and Facilities for Anglers

Several projects to improve infrastructure and access were implemented during the 2024-25 financial year. A total of \$51,789 was spent on initiatives that included the installation and maintenance of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), scientific diving and other maintenance activities.

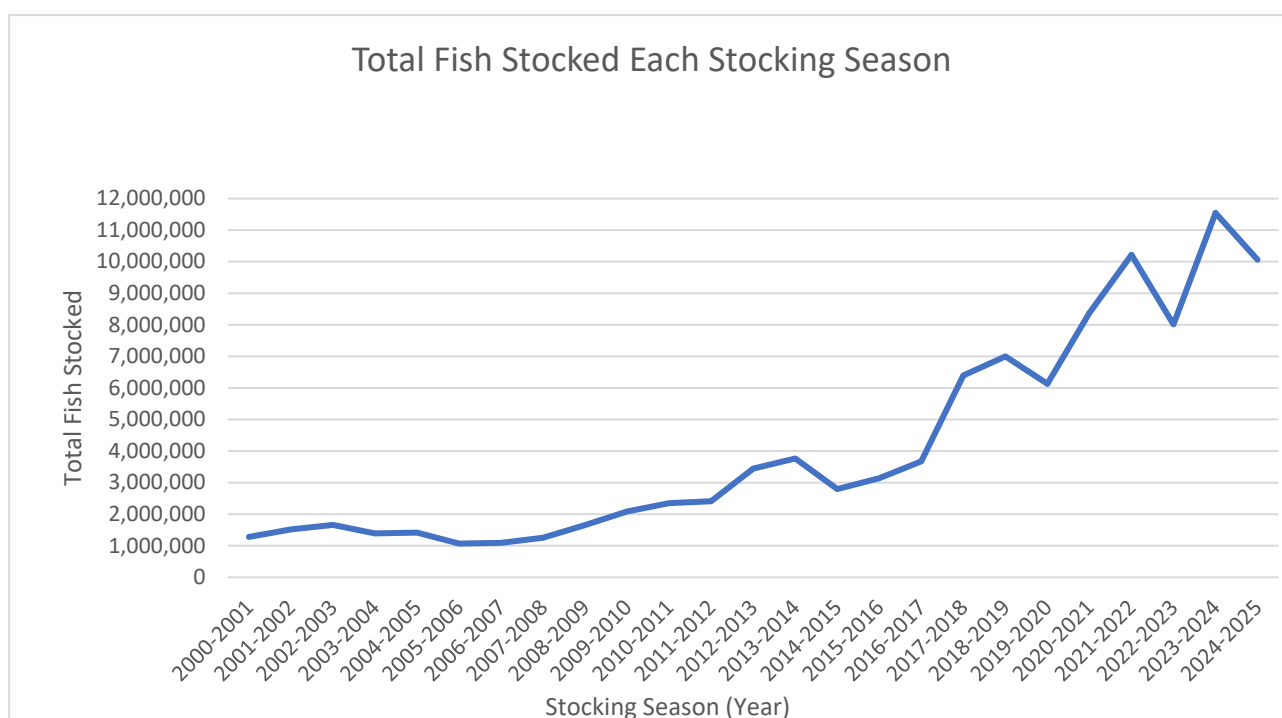
FADs were installed by the VFA at Torquay, Lorne and Aireys Inlet to improve fishing opportunities for recreational anglers. FADs consist of a float, mooring line and anchor, providing structure in an otherwise open area. This attracts many pelagic fish species including yellowtail kingfish, Southern bluefin tuna, dolphinfish and albacore. Locals have praised the installation of FADs for creating fishing hotspots. FADs are typically deployed during the summer months and removed over whale migration season, to prevent whale entanglements. The VFA leads the maintenance of FADs every year through the Go Fishing Victoria program.

Scientific diving projects include regular monitoring of purpose-built recreational fishing reefs throughout Port Phillip Bay. These reefs increase the abundance of recreational target species through creating reef habitat. Monitoring allows the VFA to understand the effectiveness of these reefs to guide the future of the recreational fishing reefs program.

## Fish Stocking

The VFA's native fish stocking program has had another successful year, with excellent numbers of native fish being produced at the Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery and Snobs Creek Production Centre. 2024-25 has seen Murray cod, Macquarie perch, trout cod and golden perch produced and stocked throughout Victoria. Snobs Creek also produced great numbers of trout and salmon, in prime condition for stocking.

Other native fish farms have also provided a good source of fish, resulting in the VFA stocking 10.06 million fish across 215 waters in 2024-25. This means the VFA is well on target to stock an average of 10 million fish per year over 5 years.



## Events and Engagement

The 2024-25 period continued to see the return of events across the state celebrating the joys of fishing, supported by a Go Fishing Victoria RFL investment of \$477,209. There were many highlights including:

- **Hooked on events** – Events were held in Portland, Portarlington and Lakes Entrance to showcase seafood and fishing in key tourism destinations, attracting between 4,000 and 5,000 people at each event.
- **Trout Season Opening Events** – The Ballarat and Goulburn Fishing Festivals occurred on the opening of trout fishing in Victoria to celebrate the new season. Both events attracted over 1,500 people respectively.
- **Vic Fish Kids** – Clinics were held at Eildon, Ballarat, Portland, Lakes, Portarlington, Port Campbell, Arcadia, Colac, Seymour and Lillydale Lake, with clinics delivered in partnership with local communities, VFA Ambassadors and Fishcare volunteers.
- **Local Forums** – A series of 12 community networking events were held within the last financial year, throughout July and August. Events were held throughout Melbourne and in Maryborough, Boort, Geelong, Horsham, Ouyen, Sale, Omeo and Inverloch.
- **All Abilities Clinics at Lillydale Lake** – Clinics were delivered in partnership with Fishcare, to provide a bespoke experience for 20 disabled fishers.
- **Arcadia Open Day** – The event attracted 2,000 people who engaged with the various activities including guided hatchery tours in the new native fish hatchery, kids fishing clinics in the fish out pond, Murray cod cooking demos and guest speakers, alongside other stalls and activities.
- **Snobs Creek Open Day** – Attracted over 700 people and featured guided tours that highlighted the soon to be built Conservation hatchery.
- **WIRFAB Conference** – Held in Nagambie, the conference was developed by women for women. Over 50 women attended to learn and engage with all things fishing and boating. Women and their families had the opportunity to explore the various stalls and activities on offer alongside the opportunity to undertake the marine license test and network with likeminded women. Attendees were also invited to tour the Arcadia Hatchery the following day and fish in the fishout pond.

## Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating (WIRFAB) Network

The WIRFAB website and social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) continue to gain momentum in 2024-25.

The online community has over 4,500 members, with over 300 women involved in the WIRFAB Locals community program. WIRFAB leaders represented the VFA at various events including the Melbourne Boat Show, and Hooked on events, providing valuable education materials and experiences for women to improve their fishing and boating. International Women's Day also saw 'learn to fish' clinics run at three different locations.

Over 50 women travelled up to 5 hours to attend the second WIRFAB conference held in Nagambie. Specific skills learnt throughout the day included knot tying, rigging, casting, boating safety, trailer reversing, fish preparation and filleting. Stakeholders such as Fishcare, Safe Transport Victoria, the Australian Trout Foundation and Native Fish Australia were in attendance to share their tips and tricks.

WIRFAB currently has 25 leaders across Victoria, with most participating or leading a local group. Local groups are welcoming and supportive spaces for women to get together with other likeminded women. Different groups run women's tackle nights at local tackle shops, skills session in fishing and boating, or just get together for regular fishing and boating sessions.

# Financial Report

Report concerning how amounts paid into the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account were disbursed in 2024-25 financial year

Receipts 2024-25		\$
<b>Total receipts from Recreational Fishing Licence sales</b>	8,642,381	Total receipts exclude 6% commission paid to online agents processed through Service Victoria. In 2024-25, 5,101 RFL licences were sold via RFL online agent portal.
245,147 RFL's sold including: 33,530 three-year licences, 100,235 one-year licences, 9,122 28-day licences, and 102,260 three-day licences.		
<b>Interest – investments</b>	389,448	<i>Fisheries Act 1995</i> , S. 151B(5) enables money standing to the credit of the Account to be invested in any manner in which funds may be invested under the <i>Trustee Act 1958</i> .
<b>Total receipts for the year</b>	9,031,829	

<b>Disbursements 2024-25</b>		<b>\$</b>
<b>Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects</b>	1,588,743	Payments to 72 projects - see Note 2.
<b>Go Fishing Victoria Implementation</b>	2,069,307	
<b>Fisheries Enforcement &amp; Education Branch</b>	2,385,139	
<b>Fish Stocking</b>	775,349	
The purchase and stocking of native and salmonid fish.		
<b>VRFish</b>	525,910	
<b>Fishcare Victoria Inc.</b>	328,566	
<b>Community Information</b>	22,870	
Recreational Fishing Grants Program/Recreational Fishing Licence disbursement reporting related advertising & publicity.		
<b>Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) 6% sales commissions</b>	3,761	
Applicable to sales commissions incurred during 2023-24, paid in 2024-25 financial year.		
<b>Costs and expenses incurred in the administration of RFLs</b>		
Salaries and business, corporate & other levies.	607,132	
Professional and contract services (includes printing and distribution of plastic licences, storage of communication products).	199,749	
Postal expenses, parking, vehicle hire, accommodation, printing, stationery, telephones, banking charges, office equipment, external learning and IT assistance.	87,155	
<b>Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee</b>	58,439	
Sitting fees, sustenance, accommodation, vehicle hire, and venue hire.		
<b>Total RFL expenses for 2024-25</b>	8,652,120	
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow)</b>	379,709	
<b>Cash as at 1 July 2024</b>	<b>8,970,492</b>	
<b>Cash as at 30 June 2025</b>	<b>9,350,201</b>	Provision to fund previously approved Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects extending into 2025-26 and beyond as applicable and other items totalling \$818,782- see Note 3.  Cash balance includes \$9,048,624 which has been invested – see Note 4.

Amounts are net of applicable GST



## Notes to the Financial Report

These notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with the financial report of the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account.

### Note 1 - Statement of Accounting Policies

#### *Basis of preparation*

This special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

The Recreational Fishing Licence Trust operates under section 151B of the *Fisheries Act 1995* to distribute 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.

Funds received by the Trust include:

- all levies and fees in respect of recreational fishing licences.
- all income from the investment of funds within the Trust; and
- any other money authorised to be paid to the Trust by the Minister.

These are reported as receipts in the Financial Report.

Disbursements from the Trust include improvements to recreational fishing as determined and the costs incurred to administer the recreational fishing licences.

The report has been prepared on a cash basis to report on how levies and application fees received in respect of recreational fishing licences have been disbursed from the Trust Account.

**Note 2 - Payments to Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects during 2024-25**

<b>Projects initially announced in 2020-21</b>		
<b>Large Grants Program</b>		
Eildon Waters Habitat Enhancement. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$28,366.	\$2,837	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Lower Goulburn River Habitat Enhancement - Wyuna. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$25,249.	\$2,525	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$5,362</b>	
<b>Projects initially announced in 2021-22</b>		
<b>Large Grants Program</b>		
Report cards for key native recreational fisheries. Balance of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year funding. Total project funding of \$85,000.	\$38,636	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Understanding residency and movement of Yellowtail Kingfish (Seriola lalandi) in Victorian waters using acoustic and satellite tracking. 90% instalment of year three funding. Total project funding of \$196,572.	\$19,721	Deakin University
Increasing fish habitat in Lake Eppalock. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$72,727.	\$7,273	Ozfish Unlimited
Upgrade of the boat ramp and jetty at Kangaroo Lake. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$63,636.	\$6,364	Gannawarra Shire Council
Increasing fish habitat for river blackfish in the Tullaroop Catchment. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$23,673.	\$2,367	North Central Catchment Management Authority
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$74,361</b>	
<b>Projects initially announced in 2022-23</b>		
<b>Commissioning Grants Program</b>		
2023-24 Communication and Compliance Products. Partial Year One funding. Total project funding of \$276,512	\$46,783	Victorian Fisheries Authority
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$46,783</b>	
<b>Large Grants Program</b>		
Cracking the Code on Captive Breeding of Macquarie perch. Total project funding of \$150,000	\$100,000	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Gunbower Weir Fishway Upgrade. 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$267,045.	\$90,000	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Rejuvenating Port Phillip's reef ball infrastructure. 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$288,650.	\$86,422	Ozfish Unlimited
OzFish Unlimited native fish roadshow: 90% instalment of year two funding. Raising the profile of fish habitat in Northern Victoria. Total project funding of \$60,909.	\$27,409	OzFish Unlimited
Cairn Curran - Picnic Point - All abilities amenity block. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$45,455.	\$4,545	Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation
Karkarook Lake submersible bore pump. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$43,091.	\$4,309	Parks Victoria
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$312,685</b>	

Projects initially announced in 2023-24		
Commissioning Grants Program		
Informing Sustainable Management of Victoria's Wild Catch Fisheries. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$169,300.	\$165,978	Victorian Fisheries Authority
2024-25 Communication and Compliance Products. Partial Year One funding. Total project funding of \$201,201	\$86,049	Victorian Fisheries Authority
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$252,027</b>	
Large Grants Program		
Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.	\$90,000	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Fishing platform at Lake Marma. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$80,000.	\$72,000	Lake Marma Committee of Management
Fly-casting precinct planning at Yarra Bend Park, Fairfield. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$74,000.	\$66,600	Red Tag Fly Fishers
New weigh gantry at Warrnambool boat ramp. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$67,534.	\$60,780	Warrnambool City Council
Assessment of stocked estuary perch. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$67,273.	\$60,545	Deakin University
Report cards for key native recreational fisheries. Full instalment year one funding. Total project funding of \$66,499.	\$60,454	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Installation of all abilities access fishing platform at Rainbow Lake. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$54,545.	\$49,091	Hindmarsh Shire Council
Installation of fishing landings at Navan Park Lake. 90% instalment of total project funding of \$50,000.	\$45,000	Melton Council
Fishing platforms upgrade on the Maribyrnong River. 90% instalment of total project funding of \$42,189.	\$37,970	Parks Victoria
Hooked on Access Project Trial. 90% instalment of \$40,000.	\$36,000	Reclink
Construction of 3 fishing platforms at the Donyak Moira Lake, Merrigum. 90% instalment of total project funding of \$22,000.	\$19,800	Goulburn Valley Water
Fishing litter prevention program trial. 90% instalment of total project funding of \$18,182.	\$16,364	Ozfish Unlimited
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$614,604</b>	
Intermediate Grants Program		
Bridging Waters Habitat	\$49,864	Australian Trout Foundation
Fish Cleaning Table Fisherman's Beach Torquay	\$45,000	Torquay Angling Club
Barwon Valley Pump Caisson Refurbishment	\$40,892	Association of Geelong and District Angling Clubs
Provision of fish cleaning facilities and lighting for jetty facilities	\$32,727	Williamstown & Newport Angling Club
Eildon Pondage Access Feasibility Study	\$12,205	VRFish
Managing Carp at Lake Wendouree	\$9,500	Ballarat District Anglers Association
Mayfly Rise Project	\$3,840	Alpine Fly Fishers
Catering Trailer	\$1,818	Australian Trout Foundation
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$195,846</b>	

<b>Small Grants Program</b>		
Livingstone Creek Restoration	\$5,000	Australian Trout Foundation
Graeme Bernhardt Memorial Come and Try Fishing Day	\$5,000	Nathalia Angling Club
Reel Recovery Retreat May 2025	\$5,000	Mending Casts
Casting Recovery Retreat for women with breast cancer	\$5,000	Mending Casts
Reel Recovery Retreat for Men	\$5,000	Mending Casts
Fly Fishing Retreat for women with any cancer	\$5,000	Mending Casts
Angler Engagement Series 25	\$5,000	Mitcham Angling Club
Promotion of Endangered Native Fish	\$5,000	Native Fish Australia
10 Aluminium Ring Targets	\$5,000	Geelong Flyfishing Club
Fawcett's Crossing-Angler Access Project (Part 2 Tullaroop Creek)	\$4,936	Ballarat District Anglers Association
Jamerson Ross Event	\$4,932	Projex J Ltd
Family Carp Fishing Day in Sale, Victoria	\$4,000	Victoria Chinese Angling Association
Come Try Fishing Kyabram Anglers Club	\$4,000	Kyabram Anglers Club
Six Mile Bridge-Angler Access Project	\$3,936	Ballarat District Anglers Association
Angling skills enhancement through simulation	\$3,894	Leopold Angling and Aquatic Club
Small Group Fishing	\$3,254	Ballarat High School
Anti slip safety mesh panel removal and installation	\$3,245	Bullen Merri South Beach Committee
Get Hooked on Fishing 2025	\$3,027	Salvation Army Shepparton
Catch a Carp Community Day	\$3,023	Werribee River Association
Transport for Ballarat Schools	\$2,720	Fishcare (Central Highlands)
Brag mats	\$2,600	Ballarat Fly Fishers Club
Educating future generations of the value of small-bodied fish	\$2,273	Goulburn Broken CMA
Education and Advertising	\$2,112	Corinella Boating & Angling Club
Kids Fishing Weekend	\$2,090	Dunlop Bayswater Fishing Club
Kids Fishing Weekend	\$2,050	Howqua Association of Fishing Clubs
Learn to Fly Fish Day	\$2,000	Ballarat Fly Fishers
Burnanga Women's Fishing Day	\$1,955	VRFish
Promoting Responsible Fishing Practices within the GVCA	\$1,950	Goulburn Valley Congolese Association
Kenny's Catch of the Day	\$1,750	Plus Sport Victoria
National Gone Fishing Day at Kyneton	\$1,750	Kyneton Angling Club
Keeping Corinella Cleaning Table Surrounds Clean	\$1,028	Corinella Boating & Angling Club
Fishing with Fergy Snapper Talk Night	\$960	Corinella Boating & Angling Club
Gone Fishing Day Event	\$885	Cobden Amateur Angling Club
Provision of Cell AED unit for club use	\$624	Mansfield & District Flyfishers Club
National Gone Fishing Day	\$600	Casterton Angling Society
Fishing Education Program	\$582	Bairnsdale Christian Community School
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$111,176</b>	
<b>Additional Refunds (initial funding provided in 2023-24)</b>		
Intermediate Grant Project IG27. Purumbete Angling Club. Lake Purumbete Access Improvements.	<b>(\$19,208)</b>	
Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant SFC40. Ocean Grove Angling Club	<b>(\$4,892)</b>	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>(24,101)</b>	
<b>Disbursements net of GST</b>	<b>\$1,588,743</b>	



**Note 3 - Proposal to fund approved Recreational Fishing Grant Program projects, and other items in 2025-26 and beyond as applicable**

Proposal to fund previously approved Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects extending into 2025-26 financial year and beyond as applicable, and other items

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
N.A.	State-wide	Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	Projects to support First Nations recreational fishing development and opportunities.	\$300,000	
LG2314	Port Phillip & Western Port	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	OzFish Unlimited	Port Phillip Bay	Marine	3yrs	Rejuvenating Port Phillip's reef ball infrastructure. Balance of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year and final 10% funding. Total project funding of \$288,650.	\$115,288	\$99,415 in-kind.
CG23241	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2024-25 Communication and Compliance Products. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$201,201.	\$115,152	VFA in-kind staff time contribution for project management and delivery
LG2306	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Gunbower	Inland	3yrs	Gunbower Weir Fishway Upgrade. Balance of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year and final 10% funding. Total project funding of \$267,045.	\$87,864	\$124,773 Concept design, detailed design and construction documentation. \$4,000 in-kind.
LG212211	State-wide	Research	Deakin University	State-wide	State-wide	3yr	Understanding residency and movement of Yellowtail Kingfish ( <i>Seriola lalandi</i> ) in Victorian waters using acoustic and satellite tracking. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$196,572.	\$19,657	Total in-kind = \$729,886
LG232406	Gippsland	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Gippsland Lakes	Estuarine	1yr	Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.	\$10,000	EGCMA \$5,000 In-kind. \$5,000 staff time.
LG2309	Gippsland	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Gippsland Lakes	Estuarine	1yr	Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration (Jones Bay and Nicholson River). Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.	\$10,000	Annual works to improve waterway health (\$5M/year).
LG212222	Northern	Access & Facilities	Ouyen Inc	Northern	Inland	1yr	Ouyen Lake Floating Fishing Pontoon and Walkway Project. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.	\$10,000	Ouyen Lake Committee - \$25,000 in-kind
LG2308	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	City of Greater Bendigo	Kennington Reservoir	Inland	1yr	Increasing fish habitat and access at Kennington Reservoir Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$99,999.	\$9,999	\$90,000 in-kind.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
LG232404	Wimmera	Access and facilities	Lake Marma Committee of Management	Lake Marma	Inland	1yr	Larka Marma COM fishing platform at Lake Marma. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$80,000.	\$8,000	Lake Marma COM and MPA \$7,000 financial. Lake Marma COM In-kind project management.
LG232408	Metropolitan	Access and facilities	Red Tag Fly Fishers	Fairfield	Inland	1yr	Red Tag Fly Fishers fly-casting precinct planning at Yarra Bend Park, Fairfield. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of 74,000.	\$7,400	Red Tag Fly Fishers \$35,700 in-kind.
LG212223	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Australian Trout Foundation	Northern	Inland	1yr	Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program and The Victorian Wild Trout Strategy 2022 - 2023. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$73,763.	\$7,376	ATF: 4,300 in-kind hours (\$25 per hour = \$107,500).
LG21224	Gippsland	Access & Facilities	Gippsland Ports Committee of Management	Gippsland	Estuarine	1yr	Improve the Kalimna Jetty at Metung. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$72,273.	\$7,227	\$19,500 in associated work and \$8,000 in project management.
LG232413	Southwest	Access and facilities	Warrnambool City Council	Warrnambool	Marine	1yr	Warrnambool city council new weigh gantry at boat ramp. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$67,534.	\$6,753	WOLGFC \$10,000 financial. WOLGFC & PM Design \$9,500 in-kind.
LG232416	Statewide	Research	Deakin University	Statewide	Estuarine	1yr	Deakin Uni assessment of stocked estuary perch. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$67,273.	\$6,727	Deakin University \$1,200 financial. Deakin University and Austral R&C \$22,500 in-kind.
LG2311	Northern	Education, Information and Training	OzFish Unlimited	Swan Hill, Echuca, Bendigo.	Inland	2yrs	OzFish Unlimited native fish roadshow: Raising the profile of fish habitat in Northern Victoria. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$60,909.	\$6,091	\$80,250 in-kind.
LG232421	Wimmera	Access and facilities	Hindmarsh Shire Council	Rainbow Lake	Inland	1yr	Installation of all abilities access fishing platform at Rainbow Lake. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$54,545.	\$5,455	\$Hindmarsh Shire Council 5,500 in-kind.
LG212215	State-wide	Research	University of Melbourne	State-wide	Inland	1yr	Fish stock assessments in key waterways. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$53,614.	\$5,361	Total in-kind contribution of \$438.7K.
LG232414	Western	Access and facilities	Melton Council	Navan Park Lake	Inland	1yr	Melton Shire Council installation of fishing landings at Navan Park Lake. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$50,000.	\$5,000	Melton Council \$140,000 in-kind.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
IG35	Northern	Intermediate Grant	Nhill Lake Committee of Management	Nhill Lake	Inland	1yr	Nhill Lake Water Supply. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$50,000.	\$5,000	Nhill Lake CoM - In-kind. GWMWater - \$90 000, Hindmarsh Shire Council - \$25 000, Wimmera CMA - \$20 000
IG34	Northern	Intermediate Grant	Ouyen Inc.	Ouyen	Inland	1yr	Ouyen Lake Floating Fishing Pontoon and Walkway Project (Stage Two). Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$50,000.	\$5,000	Ouyen Lake/ Ouyen Inc. Financial \$40,00, In-kind \$5,000.
IG24	Southwest	Intermediate Grant	Association of Geelong and District Angling Clubs	Aireys Inlet	Estuarine	1yr	Painkalac Creek Fishing Platform. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$47,150.	\$4,715	Association of Geelong and District Angling Clubs in-kind \$1,500.
IG24	Southwest	Intermediate Grant	Association Geelong and District Angling Clubs Inc.	Geelong	Inland	1yr	Barwon Valley Pump Caisson Refurbishment. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$45,435.	\$4,544	In-kind labour \$3,300.
LG232417	Metropolitan	Access and facilities	Parks Victoria	Maribyrnong River	Inland	1yr	Parks Victoria fishing platforms upgrade on the Maribyrnong River. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$42,189.	\$4,219	Parks Victoria in-kind project management and ongoing platform monitoring and maintenance.
LG232423	Statewide	Access and facilities	Reclink	Statewide	Statewide	1yr	Hooked on access project trial. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$40,000.	\$4,000	Fishcare Victoria in-kind \$8,700
CG23242	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	Marine & Estuarine`	1yr	Informing Sustainable Management of Victoria's Wild Catch Fisheries. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$169,300.	\$3,865	VFA resource in-kind support: estimated \$400,000.
IG61	Port Phillip & Western Port	Intermediate Grant	Williamstown Newport Angling club	Williamstown	Marine & Estuarine`	1yr	Provision of fish cleaning facilities and lighting for the jetty facilities. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$36,364.	\$3,636	In-kind plumbing work and project management.
LG2304	Port Phillip & Western Port	Education, Information and Training	3ZZZ	Port Phillip & Western Port	State-wide	1yr	Multilingual recreational fishing campaigns in Melbourne. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$34,909.	\$3,490	\$20,000 financial, \$10,000 in-kind.
LG232429	Northern	Access and facilities	Goulburn Valley Water	Dunyak Moira Lake, Merrigum	Inland	1yr	Goulburn Valley Water to construct 3 fishing platforms at the Dunyak Moira Lake, Merrigum. Balance of 10% funding.	\$2,200	Goulburn Valley Water \$800,000 financial. \$53K in-kind.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
LG232425	Statewide	Sustainability and habitat improvement	Ozfish Unlimited	Statewide	Statewide	1yr	Ozfish Unlimited litter prevention program. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$18,182.	\$1,818	OzFish Unlimited \$30,500 in-kind.
							<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$785,837</b>	



Other items

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
Not applicable	State-wide	Not applicable	Fishcare Victoria Inc.	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2024-25 Base funding. Total project funding of \$329,448. Balance of 10% funding.	\$32,945	Nil financial contributions.
							Sub-total	\$32,945	
							Sub-total	\$818,782	

**Note 4 - Cash assets**

Cash as at 30 June 2025 of \$9,350,201 shown in the financial statement includes \$9,048,624 which has been invested pursuant to Section 151B(5) *Fisheries Act 1995*.

# Statutory Certification

I certify the attached Financial Report for the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account has been prepared in accordance with the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

I further state that, in my opinion, the information set out in the Receipts and Disbursements Report and notes to the financial report, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 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.



**Travis Dowling**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority  
**05/11/2025**



**Matt Carrick**  
Secretary  
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions  
**05/11/2025**

# Independent Audit Report from Auditor-General



## Independent Auditor's Report

### *To the Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions*

<b>Opinion</b>	<p>I have audited the special purpose financial report of the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account (the trust) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• financial report as at 30 June 2025</li><li>• notes to the financial report for the year then ended</li><li>• statutory certification.</li></ul> <p>In my opinion, the special purpose financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts and disbursements from the Recreational Fishing License Trust account for the year ended 30 June 2025 in accordance with the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>.</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 trust 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>Emphasis of matter - Basis of accounting for financial report</b>	<p>Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 <i>Statement of Accounting Policies</i>, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting obligations under the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.</p>
<b>Other information</b>	<p>The Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions is responsible for the "other information" included in the trust'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 our 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 my 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 material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>



<b>The Secretary's responsibilities for the financial report</b>	<p>The Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>, and for such internal control as the Secretary 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>The Secretary of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions has determined that the financial report is appropriate to the needs of the Minister for Outdoor Recreation.</p>
<b>Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report</b>	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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 trust's internal control</li> <li>• evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Secretary</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>I communicate with the Secretary 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.</p>

MELBOURNE  
11 November 2025



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





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