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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.

Message from the VFA's Board Chair and CEO

The key ingredient making the VFA great is its staff. The year began with sustained restrictions and lockdowns associated with COVID-19, but the frenetic work pace for everyone at the VFA continued with recreational and commercial fisheries in full swing, boat ramps and platforms being built around the State, and our Fisheries Officers out there every day to protect our fisheries, engage with the community and keep people safe. As well as being our visual presence, they are our frontline who operate in a way that builds community stewardship of our fisheries resources.

A huge achievement in 2021-22 was the completion of the Government's *Go Fishing Victoria* election commitment. Over the four-year, \$35 million investment, we have improved the State's recreational fishing environment by delivering better fisheries, more infrastructure and boosting the socio-economic returns to the community. In 2021-22, to deliver the final components of the campaign:

- We set a national record by stocking 10 million fish into waterways across the State. Of these, 8.3 million were native species, aiding in the recovery of threatened species such as Macquarie perch and trout cod and ensuring that our inland fisheries continue to thrive. Stocking this record number of fish is a credit to our staff and the cooperation and dedication of volunteer angling clubs, Traditional Owners and other government agencies.
- We delivered the new Northern Native Fish Hatchery in Arcadia with an incredible transformation from an old dairy farm to a functioning hatchery, which has already produced and stocked its first batch of golden perch fingerlings into the Goulburn River.
- We deployed the final of three artificial reefs designed to rebuild critical habitat in Port Phillip Bay. The first, a shellfish reef delivered in 2019-20 partnership with The Nature Conservancy, received two awards at the 2022 Premier's Sustainability Awards in the Best Environmental Project and Premiers Outstanding Achievement categories.

The 2021-22 year also marked the first full year with Better Boating Victoria in our midst and delivering a massive boating infrastructure program for the State. With over 100 projects underway, the rate of delivery has been incredible. Fees at boat ramps have been abolished, access is increasing, and the future of boating is clear through the release of the *Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy 2021 – 2030* and the creation of the Better Boating Fund.

We have worked closely with Seafood Industry Victoria on a range of initiatives to grow the availability of fresh, locally caught seafood. Together we have co-funded studies to better understand seafood consumer preferences and the seafood supply chain in Victoria; issued permits for line caught seafood and small sales of abalone to encourage local sales to Victorian communities; created new species-specific fishery license classes including for octopus, urchin and pipis; and released the Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan to ensure this important fishery remains a significant supplier of seafood and local employment.

At the VFA we strive to deliver best practice community engagement programs. When it was safe to do so, it was fantastic to see our events program back up and running to promote our commercial fisheries, teach kids about the enjoyment of fishing, continue the momentum with our multicultural communities, and expand the Women in Recreational Fishing Network to encourage more women to give fishing a go.

This year, and every year, the output from the VFA is a reflection of our committed and dedicated staff who continue to deliver healthy, sustainable fisheries and better boating experiences for all Victorians. On behalf of the VFA Board and Executive, we thank them for their efforts.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gail Owen'.

Gail Owen
VFA Board Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Dowling'.

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 2022.



Gail Owen

VFA Board Chair

24 October 2022



Our purpose and functions

The VFA is a statutory authority with the responsibility of 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 and boating related legislation. 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 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.
- Monitor, investigate, enforce and promote compliance with legislation relating to fisheries and boating.
- Work cooperatively with fisheries management bodies in other States, Territories and the Commonwealth.

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 2019 – 2024* 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 Values
These values shape the VFA and all those who work within it

- Safety first**
Our safety, the safety of our team and the community comes first, always
- Professionalism**
We get things done with integrity and maintain high standards
- Leadership**
We are all leaders, no matter our role
- Support our people**
We treat everyone with respect and embrace diversity
- Accountability**
We are accountable to our self, our team, the VFA and our community





Our achievements in 2021-22

Building healthy and sustainable fisheries

Supporting Victoria's commercial fisheries and aquaculture

Corner Inlet Management Plan

In June 2022, the first ever *Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan* was declared in accordance with the *Fisheries Act 1995*. The Plan was prepared by the VFA in close consultation with the Corner Inlet Management Plan Steering Committee and the wider community.

The Corner Inlet Fishery is located in Southern Gippsland and is an important contributor to Victoria's economy, providing fantastic fishing for King George whiting, garfish, calamari, flounder, gummy shark and flathead. It is the State's most valuable commercial bay and inlet fishery, has long been a popular area for Victoria's growing recreational fishing sector and holds great importance to the Traditional Owners of the area.

The Management Plan will steer the strategic direction for this fishery to ensure sustainable and responsible fishing into the future. Some of the key initiatives include:

- Installing and utilising cameras for monitoring fishing effort at key boat ramps.
- Establishing the Corner Inlet Fisheries Management Advisory Committee.
- Reducing the recreational bag limit for cockles at Corner Inlet-Nooramunga from five to two litres to better share the resource.
- Undertaking recreational and indigenous fishing survey in Corner Inlet.
- Developing and commencing a bycatch monitoring program.
- Supporting the commercial fishery to develop a new voluntary Code of Practice to promote ethical, responsible and respectful fishing practices.

The Plan is available to download from the VFA website.



Sustainably expanding the commercial octopus fishery

Victoria's standalone Octopus Fishery Access Licence class commenced in August 2020, building on the success of an emerging boutique octopus fishery that had established within another fishery. The Pale Octopus (*Octopus pallidus*) is the main species harvested in the fishery, with fishers using purpose-built unbaited octopus pots to minimise bycatch. The fishery is split into three zones – Eastern, Central, and Western – with differing management arrangements.

The Eastern Zone comprises several commercial fishers operating in East Gippsland that have been granted Access Licences, authorising the commercial take of octopus. The Eastern Zone is a quota-managed fishery with tradeable licences and continues to develop as it enters its third quota year.

Octopus fishing in the Central and Western zones is less developed and is currently being managed by the VFA using temporary exploratory permits. Exploratory octopus fishing with octopus shelter pots is encouraged and managed in these zones with the issuance of a small number of 12 month permits. These permits allow the VFA and industry to build knowledge and support required for the environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable development of long-term octopus fishing opportunities in Victoria.

The first round of exploratory permits for the Central and Western zones was granted to successful exploratory permits was granted to successful applicants in 2020 following an expression of interest (EOI) process. Building on a review of the first round, a second round of exploratory permits was granted in early 2022 to a total of 17 successful EOI applicants across the two zones. Permits include input controls on fishing effort, detailing the number of octopus pots permitted, the reporting requirements on fisher and wildlife interactions, as well as the species-specific data to be collected.

The knowledge and data collected by these permit holders is crucial in informing management decisions and ensuring the long-term sustainability and viability of the Octopus Fishery in Victoria. The Pale Octopus is an important and valuable species for industry as well as for our ecosystem, and further research of the species continues, including a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation-funded research project, to provide information for the adaptive management of octopus fishing in all three zones over time.

Victoria's ocean scallop stocks are continuing to recover

Pre-season abundance surveys of scallop biomass in the Victorian Ocean Scallop Fishery have once again demonstrated ongoing recovery of the scallop populations, and encouragingly, evidence to support a re-classification of the stock as "recovering".

The surveys, carried out across three scallop beds (Tarwine East, Tarwine West and Clomnel), estimated total biomass at the survey sites to be around 8,904 tonnes. In consultation with industry, this has supported maintenance of the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) at 979 tonnes. This equates to 11 per cent of total available biomass of the Tarwine bed, with ongoing recruitment supported by leaving 7,925 tonnes untouched and the closure of a newly located small but highly populated scallop bed.

The VFA will continue to work with licence holders and industry to facilitate optimal management and opportunities for the fishery, include access to export markets and tradability of entitlements.



Eel Fishery permits provide access to new waters

The VFA has worked with Seafood Industry Victoria and Victorian commercial eel fishers to reform the permit criteria system. Eel fishery permits provide commercial fishers with an additional income avenue to improve their business viability by introducing new fishing opportunities. This added opportunity is valuable for industry to respond to challenging economic environments.

The reform process utilised a stakeholder consultation phase and industry discussion forums to assist the VFA in finalising the new permit conditions. The new conditions protect existing entitlements (permit and licences holders), whilst removing restrictions based on preferential treatments (license class conditions) that existed under the old system.

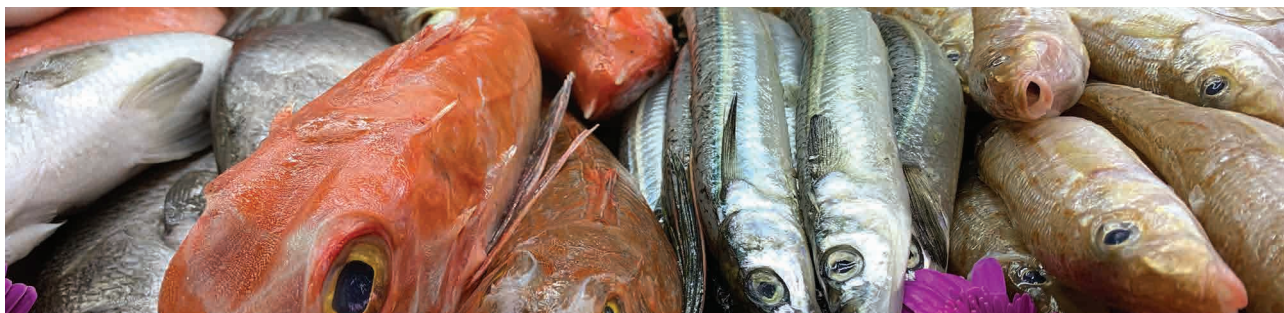
The reform also addresses a key action in the *Victorian Eel Fishery Management Plan 2017* (Objective 2.21) – a permit criteria review and the VFA's *Strategic Action Plan* (Action 22.3) – to ensure high quality seafood product is readily accessible at the source and across Victoria.

The VFA expects to endorse five new permits for a total of 13 issued permits providing Victoria's commercial eel fishers with a sustainable, fair and equitable growth opportunities to support their business viability and growth.



Fresh fish direct from the boat

Over the past three years, the VFA has been working with 'fresh from the boat' permit holders to catch species such as snapper, whiting, calamari and gummy shark for direct sale to tourists and locals keen to sample locally sourced fresh fish. Fish can be sold directly from the wharf as well as to local businesses such as restaurants and supermarkets. The 'fresh from the boat' permit provides an opportunity for new entrants as well as for existing commercial fishers to expand their operations. The advantages for regional Victoria include the ability for regional restaurants to promote the sale of fish from sea to plate, the promotion of tourism by providing locally sourced fish direct from the boat, and the growth of the local economy by enabling fishers to sell their catch close to home. There are currently 38 permit holders operating in 10 ports across Victoria.



Shark endorsements formalised

The opportunity for Ocean Fishery, Inshore Trawl, Rock Lobster and Giant Crab licence holders to keep more of their gummy shark bycatch is now built into ongoing Fisheries Regulations. For the last two years, the VFA has been issuing annual endorsement notices allowing interested commercial fishing licence holders to take up to five gummy and school shark on any one day, of which no more than one may be a school shark. The daily limit for non-endorsed licence holders in these fisheries is up to two sharks of one or a combination of these species. All eligible existing endorsement holders have received a new endorsement notice extending for multiple licensing years to 2025-26.

The Southern Australian Gummy shark stock is widely recognised for its sustainable management credentials. These endorsements allow eligible licence holders to retain more of their gummy shark bycatch and provide more fresh seafood for Victorian consumers, while supporting Commonwealth's school shark rebuilding strategies. Victorian commercial take of these sharks continues to be managed within the 40-tonne limit set in our agreement with the Commonwealth, while vessel monitoring systems (or pre-landing reports) and discard reporting by endorsement holders provide further assurance of sustainable management.

The future of Victorian aquaculture is looking bright

Our aquaculture industry has continued to deliver a range of safe, sustainable and high-quality products, enjoyed by seafood consumers in Victoria and beyond. Along with the existing range of outputs from Victorian aquaculture farms – including trout, abalone, blue mussels, yabbies, barramundi, oysters, ornamental fish, native fish and eels – there has been continued, growing industry interest this year in trialling native seaweed culture in our aquaculture reserves.

Building on the success of the *Victorian Aquaculture Strategy 2017 - 2022*, the VFA has provided support to the Victorian aquaculture industry and Seafood Industry Victoria in the development of an industry led and owned *Victorian Aquaculture Strategy*. It will guide the continued development of aquaculture in Victoria and the social and economic benefits it delivers for Victorians. The VFA has also been proudly partnering with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation on developing a native oyster industry in Gippsland, with a trial proposed to commence later in 2022 once consultation and formal approvals are completed. Consultation has concluded on the proposed trial and amendments to the proposed sites have been made based on community and stakeholder feedback.

Other significant achievements for our aquaculture program this year included completion of both annual and triennial reports for the Victorian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program and an upgrade at the shellfish hatchery nursery at Queenscliff. A navigation upgrade was also completed at the Kirk Point Werribee and Bates Point Aquaculture Fisheries Reserves, building on last year's major program of replacement of navigation piles at Grassy Point.



Delivering resilient recreational fisheries

Promoting responsible spider crab fishing

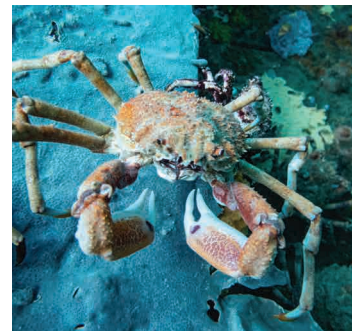
The annual aggregation of Giant Spider Crabs (*Leptomithrax gaimardii*) is a natural phenomenon that sees these fascinating crabs gather in huge groups at various shallow water locations in Port Phillip Bay, Victorian coastal waters and beyond, during the winter months. A regular aggregation occurs close to the Rye and Blairgowrie piers, providing unparalleled access to this species by divers, recreational fishers, and the public.

Given the high level of interest in the Giant Spider Crab across different stakeholder groups, the informed and careful management of this species is essential to ensure diverse fishing opportunities are provided for future generations to enjoy. In 2021, the daily catch and possession limit for spider crabs, including Giant Spider Crabs, was halved from 30 to 15 to better balance the value of spider crabs across the community and provide a more equitable share between fishers and other stakeholders. Extensive consultation was undertaken to ensure the views of all affected communities were considered during this review.

To better reach key communities with an interest in this species, a multicultural education campaign on enjoying responsible spider crab fishing was conducted. The VFA engaged an external agency specialising in communicating with audiences from diverse cultural backgrounds to assist with the targeted campaign. The campaign utilised online platforms, such as WeChat and WEIBO, with posts and articles informing and encouraging key communities on responsible spider crab fishing. Other educational tools such as signs, brochures, and video and radio content were developed, with the Victorian Multicultural Commission also assisting with the distribution of information.

An important field component of the campaign was delivered by Mornington Fisheries Officers and bilingual sessional staff from the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre, who engaged with local and visiting communities and delivered educational material directly to the public. The VFA also collaborated with local councils and Parks Victoria on the location of extra bins and educational signs at spider crab aggregation sites.

Working with multicultural engagement specialists is one of the ways that the VFA ensures the right information is reaching our diverse communities. The VFA continues to work closely with the community to educate and promote social and stewardship behaviours, to ensure Giant Spider Crabs are shared responsibly between divers, recreational fishers, and the public, now and into the future.



Collecting Giant Spider Crabs

Responsible Fishers:

- have their own recreational fishing licence
- collect up to a maximum of 15 crabs on any day
- possess (have with them) a maximum of 15 crabs at any time
- use hoop nets in waters deeper than 2 metres
 - do not use opera house nets or open top lift nets
- keep the pier and water clean
 - place used bait (chicken frames), ties and rubbish in the bins or take it home
 - do not litter the ocean
- maintain a safe distance
 - respect other users, the crabs and their habitat.

Penalties apply

You can help

13 3474 (13 Fish) report illegal fishing

蜘蛛蟹捕捞须知

捕捞规则:

- 每名捕捞人员均须购买自己的鱼证
- 一天内最多捕捞15只螃蟹
 - 任何时候最多持有15只螃蟹
- 使用细网且下网水下深度不得高于2米
 - 禁止使用歇脚式提笼或开顶式吊笼
- 维持码头栈台及海水清洁
 - 将用过的鸡架等饵料、系绳及其他垃圾投入垃圾桶或带走
 - 切勿将垃圾投入大海
- 保持安全距离
 - 留心其他人，维持螃蟹及其栖息地

罚款适用

你可以帮忙

13 3474 (13 Fish) 举报非法捕捞

Recovering endangered Macquarie perch populations

In 2022, Macquarie perch populations continue to be given a huge boost thanks to new funding, record fish production and stocking, habitat restoration and connection to the community. The species historically supported popular and productive fisheries, but factors including barriers to fish migration and habitat destruction have since restricted them to a handful of populations that have been impacted by bushfires, reduced water flows and introduced species.

The VFA and partners, including the Women in Recreational Fishing Network, Corryong Angling Club, Ovens Landcare Network, Upper Murray Landcare Network, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, the North East Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, were successful in securing and delivering on a \$181,523 Landcare funding grant to help recover Macquarie perch in bushfire affected areas of northeast Victoria.

The funding led to improved breeding of the species at the Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery, the purchase and installation of computer software, temperature/oxygen probes and auto feeders for improved monitoring and conditioning in the hatchery, and helicopter transport of the broodstock from Lake Dartmouth to Snobs Creek Hatchery to reduce stress on fish and allow greater spawning success. As a result of these improvements and the Snobs Creek team's tremendous efforts, a record 145,000 Macquarie perch were released into the Goulburn River (58,000), Ovens River (40,000), King River (15,000), Buffalo River (15,000), Cudgewa Creek (15,000) and Lake Dartmouth (2,200).

The funding also restored instream fish habitat at two sites on the King River and Cudgewa Creek, including boulder seeding and hardwood timber structure installation, fencing and revegetation, and funded two community riparian habitat planting weekends with recreational fishers, local Landcare groups, Traditional Owners and general public planting over 500 trees.

The funding contributed to a dedicated IFish episode on Macquarie perch and a cinematic video on the Macquarie perch story, which featured at the Cannes Short Film Festival in France.



Relocating our native fish to new homes all over Victoria

Native fish species are relocated for multiple reasons, including protection from a looming natural disaster, changes to irrigation, or a reduction in water flow due to irrigation maintenance. Throughout 2022, the VFA worked in close collaboration with water authorities, catchment management authorities and recreational angling groups to save and rehome native fish right across Victoria.

At Greens Lake, near Corop, the VFA continued to partner with Goulburn Murray Water (GMW), Keith Bell and local Goulburn Valley anglers to find new homes for large numbers of native fish from the decommissioned lake. To date, over 400 golden perch - the largest weighing in at 6.5 kilograms - and 100 Murray cod - the largest measuring 1.2 metres - have been relocated to provide a boost to populations in Waranga Basin and the Goulburn and Campaspe Rivers.

The VFA also worked with GMW, Lower Murray Water, OzFish Unlimited, Arthur Rylah institute, catchment management authorities and recreational fishers to save native fish during routine irrigation channel maintenance all over Victoria, enabling these stranded fish to be relocated and boost fish populations in public waterways. Species saved include hundreds of Murray cod, golden perch, silver perch, blackfish and catfish. The fish were released into the Goulburn River, Broken Creek, Campaspe River, Serpentine Creek and Kings Billabong. Importantly, the blackfish were relocated into two locations on the Campaspe River, where the species has previously been locally extinct.

To assist in moving our native fish, three new fish transport trailers were purchased in 2021-22, funded by the Federal Government's bushfire recovery program and in collaboration with the Arthur Rylah Institute.

The trailers move native fish safely and with minimal stress on the animals. Housed on a tandem trailer able to carry 1,000 litres of water, each trailer also carries oxygen and features removable internal dividers to allow fish to be separated if required. This flexibility allows transport of a few big Murray cod, a dozen Macquarie perch, or hundreds of small galaxiids to help species conservation. The trailers have already been used to relocate golden perch and Murray cod from Greens Lake, to transport broodfish cod for our new fish farm at Arcadia and to collect Macquarie perch brood stock to help recover from the impacts of the 2020 bushfires.



Improved recreational fisheries and fishing opportunities

Year-round Murray cod fishing in western Victoria

In 2022, recreational fishers were able to fish all year in Victoria's west with the three-month closed season removed for the second year in all waters of the Wimmera and Millicent basins, with the exception of the Wimmera River. The change has been a huge success in providing keen cod fishers with a fishing destination during September, October, and November each year when other cod waters are closed. It has also provided a valuable boost to regional businesses in the Wimmera and Millicent basins that depend on tourism.

Murray cod are stocked annually into waters within these basins, creating put-and-take Murray cod fisheries at places such as Taylors Lake, Lake Charlegrark, Rocklands Reservoir and Lake Bellfield. Because these waters are outside the natural range of Murray cod, natural recruitment of the species is typically low, meaning the closed season has very little benefit to the Murray cod populations and fisheries.

Lifting the Murray cod closed season in western Victoria has also shifted fishing pressure from regions where the species naturally breed and allows them to 'have a rest when they're on the nest', which is consistent with the VFA's *Care for Cod* campaign.



Vic Fish Stock and creating new fisheries

The VFA stocks fish to improve recreational fishing opportunities in lakes and rivers and to help the recovery of threatened species. To determine where to and what to stock, where to undertake fish population surveys and to discuss other recreational fisheries management matters, the VFA conducts annual regional consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders.

In May 2022, the VFA hosted four Vic Fish Stock meetings to finalise the Stocking Plan for 2022-23. Over 40 recreational fishing representatives attended the meetings and provided their valuable input, including from the Women in Recreational Fishing Network, VRFish, Australian Trout Foundation, Native Fish Australia, FutureFish Foundation, and numerous various angling associations and recreational fishers.

Excellent discussions were had regarding stocking species, numbers, sizes and locations, which resulted in the identification of 21 new stocking and recreational fishery opportunities for the VFA to undertake viability assessments.

In 2022-23, another 10 million fish, comprising 12 species will be stocked into over 239 waters across Victoria, creating a plethora of fishing opportunities for people to enjoy.



Estuary perch broodfish collection

Estuary perch are an extremely popular angling species as they can be caught with a range of fishing techniques and display excellent sporting qualities. The fish are generally associated with estuaries but can live in freshwater, which allows them to be stocked into a range of locations to increase the angling experience of these great sport fish to a wider audience.

Every year, the VFA works with recreational fishers to collect estuary perch in mature and spawning condition to be successfully bred in a hatchery, with the resulting fingerlings then transported back to sites across Victoria to create and maintain perch recreational fisheries.

There are two zones for broodstock collection and stocking of estuary perch. The eastern zone, where fish are sourced from the Snowy River and Bemm River estuaries, and the western stock where fish are collected from the Tarwin River.

Under strict COVID-19 protocols, the eastern collection was undertaken with recreational fishers who successfully captured broodstock, which were then transported to a hatchery in Narooma.

The participation of recreational fishers in the western zone was limited by COVID-19 restrictions this year, however VFA staff, including Fisheries Officers, were able to step in to help. To maintain the estuary perch stocking program, the broodstock fish for the western stock were collected from the Tarwin River by staff and the team from Austral Research and Consulting using the technique of electrofishing.

To minimise handling, the fish were captured, sexed and assessed for suitability onboard the electrofishing boat. The chosen fish were then transported straight from the boat to the Snobs Creek fish transport truck and transported to the Narooma hatchery.

The work culminated in eggs being stripped, fertilised and successfully hatched. The VFA was able to stock 110,000 eastern stock perch into the Gippsland Lakes, Snowy River and Bemm Rivers, and nearly 240,000 western stock fish into the Barwon and Maribyrnong rivers.

The stockings continue to create and maintain sustainable and healthy recreational estuary perch fisheries for anglers to enjoy.



Growing recreational fishing and boating in Victoria

Delivering the Government's *Go Fishing Victoria* election commitments

The VFA is proud to have completed delivery of the Government's *Go Fishing Victoria* election campaign. The campaign to get more people fishing in more places more often was first introduced in the 2014 election and delivered a \$46 million package of improvements for recreational fishers over four years. Such was the success of the initiative that as part of the 2018 election campaign, the Government committed a further \$35 million to create and improve recreational fishing opportunities for the State.

During the past eight years, the VFA has improved recreational fishing infrastructure around the State making it safer to fish, increased fish stocking to attract more visitors to our regions for new fishing opportunities that boost local economies and create jobs, and introduced the next generation to fishing by giving them the opportunity to give it a try whilst teaching them about responsible fishing, sustainability and the importance of the environment.

Go Fishing Victoria

More people fishing, more often

-  Stock Melbourne metro lakes with native Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch
-  Phase out commercial netting in the Gippsland Lakes through a compulsory buy out
-  Stock eastern king prawns into Lake Tyers
-  Deliver the Fishing for All initiative and continue the successful Vic Fish Kids Program
-  Build a new \$7 million native fish hatchery in northern Victoria
-  Increase stocking to 10 million fish by 2022
-  Develop a fishing tourism 'destination' plan to boost regional visitation and business opportunities
-  Invest \$600,000 in new fishing platforms and cleaning tables in Port Phillip Bay
-  Open inland reservoirs to kayaks, canoes and tinnies with electric motors
-  Mandate access to Crown land river frontage covered by grazing licences for recreational fishing and camping
-  Invest \$2.5 million in reef development in Port Phillip Bay to improve fish habitat



The key commitments that have been delivered in 2021-22 are showcased in the following section.

Our Northern Native Fish Hatchery comes of age

There has been a hive of activity over the last 12 months to complete the construction of a new native fish hatchery at our 170-hectare Arcadia property. After extensive design, planning, early works, procurement and approvals, an operational hatchery was delivered in November 2021. The works included excavation and creation of 32 ponds, trenching, laying of kilometres of drainage pipes and conduits and, the construction of a unique underground gravity fed harvest station. Alongside this work, an old dairy milking shed was converted into a fish quarantine and fingerling receival facility. A freezer and cool room and back-up generator were installed and works commenced on a water re-use system.

Once the brood ponds were settled, Murray cod and golden perch broodfish were brought onto the farm. They settled in well and were fed on yabbies and shrimp, which were also stocked in the ponds. Around that time, three experienced staff were recruited with a great mix of fish farming, management, and trade skills. The new crew hit the ground running and for the very first time, tiny Murray cod and golden perch larvae were stocked, mostly sourced from Snobs Creek, into new plankton ponds.

Between January and April 2022, more than 480,000 native fish fingerlings were grown and harvested at Arcadia. The decision to develop a hatchery in the warm climate of northern Victoria was validated as the fish growth rates far exceeded those at Snobs Creek, which has a much cooler climate. The new gravity fed harvesting system meant handling was minimised and the time taken to harvest fish was much reduced, resulting in improved quality and condition of fish.

As of 30 June 2022, the final stage of the hatchery is being delivered which includes the construction of the hatchery building, to be ready for the start of the native fish breeding season in spring. The VFA is looking forward to an even bigger second production season as broodfish come into breeding condition and the hatchery enables the VFA to breed its own fish and expand production of Murray cod and golden perch.



A national record – achieving our target to stock 10 million fish per year

In 2021-22, we reached a massive fish stocking milestone with 10.2 million fish stocked into 211 waterways across Victoria and achieved a key commitment from the Government's *Go Fishing Victoria* campaign. In doing this, we stocked 8.3 million native fish and 1.9 million salmonids (trout and salmon) to rebuild and replenish fish stocks and provide improved fishing experiences.

Major milestones were also achieved for Victoria's key inland recreational fisheries as well this year. Over one million native fish were stocked into Lake Eildon, Lake Eppalock and Rocklands Reservoir, comprising around 400,000 golden perch and 600,000 Murray cod fingerlings for each lake. This was a record stocking of both species into Lake Eppalock, a record stocking of Murray cod for Lake Eildon, and a new record for golden perch into Rocklands Reservoir.

The 'stonker' trout program continued with the large five-kilogram rainbow trout stocked into metropolitan Melbourne waters and the Goulburn River. A total of 1,000 of these giants were placed into 17 waterways across Melbourne's inner and outer suburbs and 2,000 were stocked along the Goulburn River from Eildon to Molesworth, including 500 into the Eildon pondage.

The VFA also continued the marine stocking trial by stocking 10,600 dusky flathead into the Lakes Entrance region as part of the *Gippsland Lakes Recreational Fishery Plan*. The VFA will continue to explore the production and stocking of dusky flathead and other estuarine species.



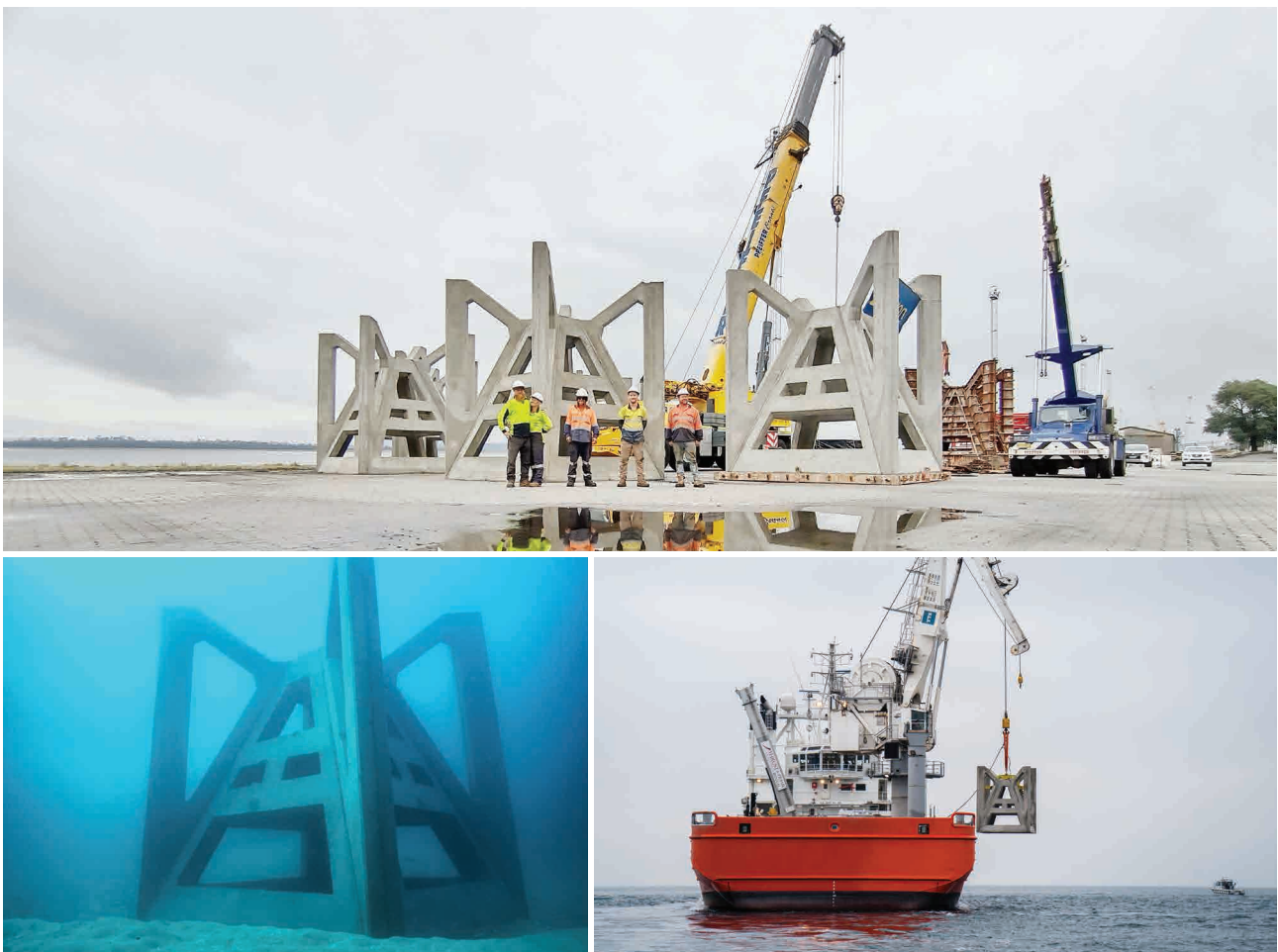
Building reefs to improve fish habitat in Port Phillip Bay

The Go Fishing Victoria campaign committed to improving fish habitat in Port Phillip Bay by investing \$2.5 million for reef development. The initiative delivered three projects, two of which were completed and reported on in 2020-21: the restoration of shellfish reefs in the Bay and the creation of rocky recreational fishing reefs in Corio Bay. In 2021-22, the final project was completed delivering new reef habitat for kingfish.

In the Autumn of 2021-22, the VFA installed an artificial reef to provide a safer alternative location for recreational fishers to catch kingfish away from the dangerous shipping channel at Port Phillip Heads. The new reef, conveniently located only three kilometres within Port Phillip, resembles the hydrodynamic environment found in the ‘Rip’ and attracts schooling bait and pelagic fish.

The ‘kingfish reef’ comprises 16 large reef modules, distributed in clusters of four, and each reef module is four metres long, four metres wide and five metres high. The large surface area of the modules provides habitat for invertebrates and algae species, while the three-dimensional design promotes upwelling of surrounding water to transport nutrients and food that will attract a variety of fish. Yellowtail kingfish are a seasonal species, and we expect them to have settled on the reefs by next summer. Within a year, the structure will be completely covered in a myriad of colourful invertebrates such as sponges, bryozoans, and algae, which will in turn attract more species of fish.

Improving fish habitat and the environment is a priority for the VFA, and as such pre-installation surveys and approval processes were carried out with successful results. On an ongoing basis, the VFA will monitor the kingfish reef and the Corio Bay rocky reefs to determine the effects of these habitat on fish abundance.



Enhancing the recreational fishing experience by investing in infrastructure

It is important that Victoria's recreational fishing community has the appropriate infrastructure to support fishing in a safe manner that is mindful of the local and greater community and to the environment. The *Go Fishing Victoria* initiative allocated \$600,000 to install fish cleaning tables at five sites and upgrade recreational fishing platforms in three locations.

In 2021-22, large state-of-the-art fish cleaning facilities were delivered at the busy locations of Patterson River and Hastings, complementing those delivered in 2020-21. In total, 12 new fish cleaning tables were built at six locations throughout the State, enabling families to enjoy a day out on the water and clean their catch before heading home. Working with local clubs, land managers and fishers at each location, we were able to customise each facility to cater for the range of species popular to each area.

- Patterson River - four medium-sized undercover tables enabling up to 16 people to clean their catch at any one time.
- Hastings boat ramp – two large, heavy-duty undercover tables catering for up to 12 fishers at a time cleaning everything from large species such as Southern Bluefin Tuna to smaller whiting or snapper.
- Lake Purrumbete - three new medium tables to cater for trout and redfin.
- Point Lonsdale Jetty - one medium table for squid, whiting and salmon.
- Avalon boat ramp - one small table to suit the location and the type of species likely to be caught.
- The Warmies, Newport - one large table to provide enough room to accommodate the wide variety of fish caught in the bay.

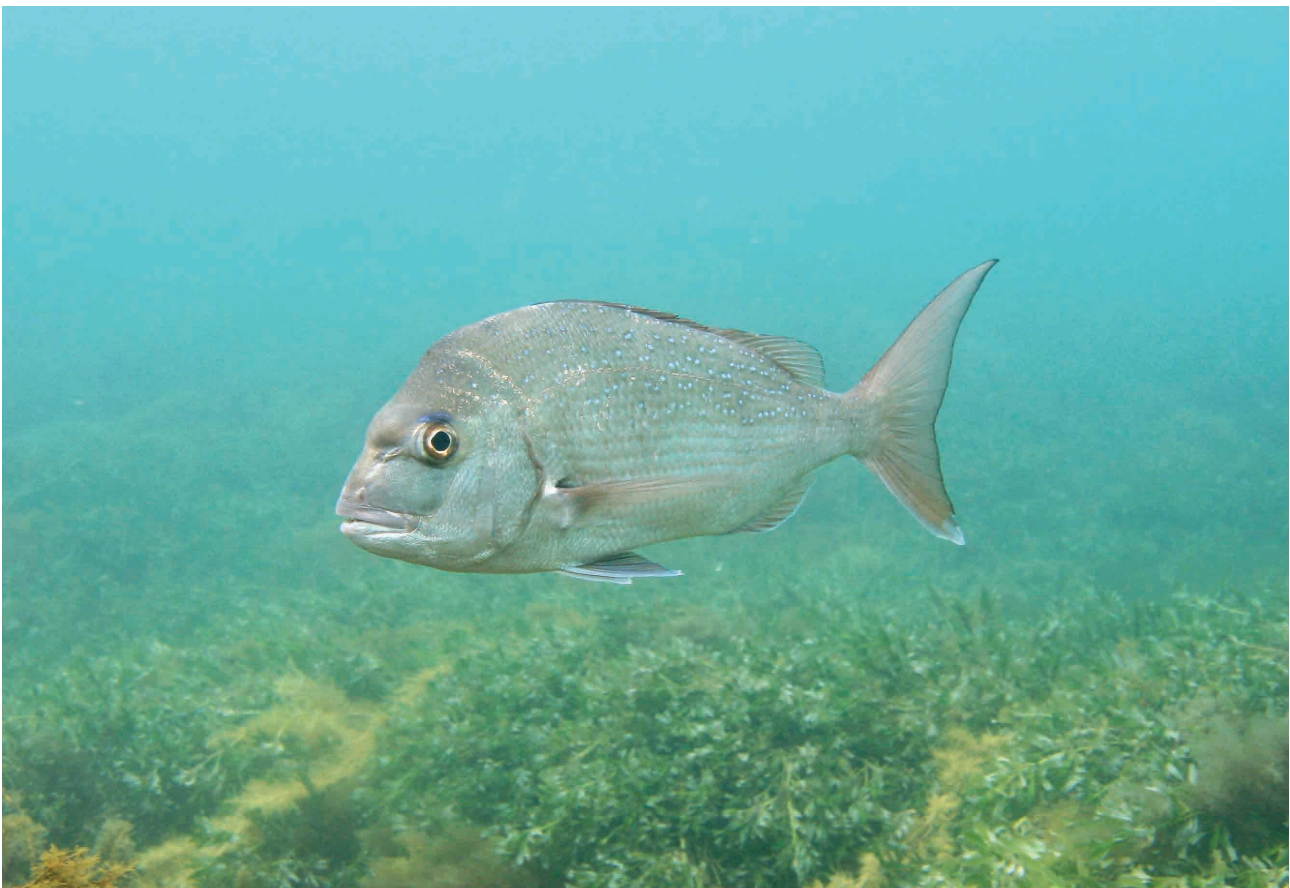
Completed in 2020-21, partnerships and co-funding with land managers enabled upgrades to 11 recreational fishing platforms comprising three on the Barwon River, four on the Hopkins River, Warrnambool and four fishing platforms in and around Geelong.



Ending commercial netting in Port Phillip Bay revives the area for recreational fishing

In April 2022, the VFA delivered on the Government's commitment to recreational fishers to remove all commercial fish netting in Port Phillip Bay over eight years as part of the Go Fishing Victoria campaign. The VFA finalised the administration of compensation packages for all 43 commercial fishers impacted by the netting removal, and established an ongoing, non-net snapper fishery in the Bay.

Eight commercial snapper fishers have continued in the fishery, using hook and line methods only to provide fresh premium snapper into Victorian markets. This quality snapper line fishery complements seafood produced by Victoria's other fisheries, such as our Corner Inlet Fishery, our world class abalone and rock lobster fisheries, and our other small boutique fisheries.



Making fishing more inclusive and accessible for all

Fishing for All

The *Fishing for All* program aims to make fishing more inclusive by providing opportunities for people living with, or affected, by a disability and those from marginalised communities to experience the joy of fishing.

As part of the program, the VFA held events in Shepparton and Williamstown where families and people of all ages were encouraged to give fishing a go. The events were well attended and enjoyed by all. Bachar Houli, a VFA Ambassador and Richmond AFL player, joined the staff at Williamstown to chat with kids and keen footy fans about his passion for fishing and shared some of his fishing tips and tricks with them.

Over the Term 2 school holidays, the VFA's Education team from the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre in Queenscliff delivered fishing education activities and a casting clinic to small groups of special needs schools and disability groups.

We also held a fishing activity as part of the Activate Inclusion Sports Day in Melbourne and Geelong, run by Disability Sports Australia. Over 180 children participated in the activities across the two events and had fun learning how to cast a fishing line.

Vic Fish Kids

The *Vic Fish Kids* program toured the State with events held at Nagambie, Williamstown, Bendigo, Karkarook and Seymour. Hundreds of children were provided the opportunity to go fishing and learn new fishing skills such as how to rig up their fishing rod. Every child who participated in a fishing clinic was provided with a free rod combo to take home to continue their fishing adventure long into the future.










Delivering the Government's *Better Boating Victoria* election commitments

Making it easier, cheaper and safer to get out onto Victoria's waters

The Victorian Government is a strong supporter of recreational boating and the benefits it delivers to people and the State's economy through the creation of jobs and tourism. The boating experience is underpinned by the ability to access reliable boating facilities across Victoria that are well maintained, safe and reliable.

In the 2018 election, the Andrews Government committed \$47.2 million to making it easier, cheaper and safer for people to get out onto Victoria's waters. The initiative is being delivered through the VFA's Better Boating Victoria team.



-  Removal of fees at boat ramps
-  Upgrade to Queenscliff boat ramp
-  Review of boating infrastructure management
-  Upgrade to Rhyll boat ramp
-  Repairs to Cowes Jetty
-  Upgrade to Point Richards boat ramp
-  Upgrade to Mordialloc boating precinct
-  Upgrade to Hastings boat ramp (completed September 2022)



Delivering the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy 2021 - 2030

In consultation with a Ministerial Recreational Boating Round Table, Better Boating Victoria led the development of *Charting the Course: The Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy 2021-2030*. The Strategy is the first-of-its-kind for Victoria and was released in December 2021 setting the vision for boating investment and infrastructure until 2030.

The Strategy will be delivered through a series of annual Action Plans, which identify how the Better Boating Fund will be allocated each financial year. The Better Boating Fund reinvests the money spent by recreational boaters on Victorian licence and registration fees, with \$33.2 million (ex GST) being allocated into the fund in 2021-22 (Figure 1 details the 2021-22 investment breakdown).

The 2021-22 Action Plan identified over 40 actions which included improvements to boating facilities at Warrnambool and Lake Bullen Merri, plans for multiple enhancements to existing facilities, delivering dredging and structural maintenance grants programs, improved boating destinations in Gippsland, improved access and navigation, safer waterways and boating promotion.

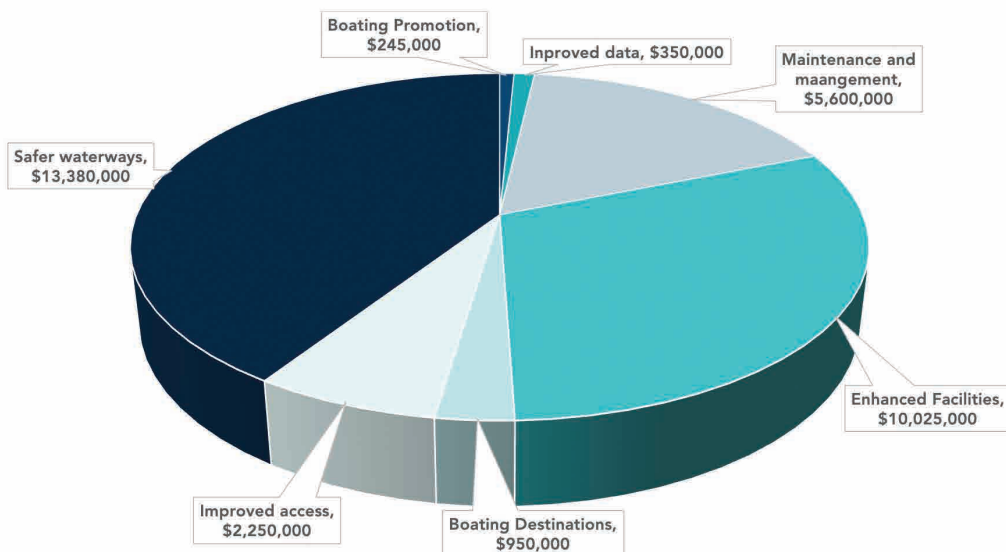


Figure 1: Funding allocation from the Better Boating Fund in 2021-22.

Upgrading boating facilities at six priority locations

The Government's Better Boating Victoria commitment of \$39.6 million to upgrade boating facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port has delivered a never seen before construction program. The VFA has worked with land and facility managers at the priority locations of Rhyll, Hastings, Mordialloc, Point Richards and Queenscliff and sought input from local communities through meetings, drop-in sessions and online surveys.

With construction staged to occur in the non-peak months between March and September to minimise the disruption to people using the facilities, works undertaken in 2021-22 included:

- **Point Richards:** An upgrade of the Point Richards boat ramp carpark was completed in 2021-22, which included an additional 50 car-trailer parking bays and improved traffic conditions. Construction of an overlapping rock groyne to reduce the amount of seagrass accumulating at the boat ramp and minimise the impact to boat ramp operations commenced in mid-2022 and were completed in August 2022.
- **Queenscliff:** During 2021-22, expansion of the carpark at the popular Queenscliff boat ramp was completed, which included an overflow carpark and improvements to traffic circulation. Works also included the construction of a third boat ramp lane and floating pontoon to make it quicker and easier to launch or retrieve and new asphalt for the main carpark.
- **Mordialloc:** In June 2021, construction commenced at the Governor Road boat ramp and Pier Road improve the recreational boating experience at Mordialloc Creek. New pontoons have been installed to increase berthing capacity and works to provide additional parking capacity for boat and trailer units was completed in August 2022 at Governor Road. Next to the Pier Road carpark, an accessible floating pontoon that incorporates Universal Design Principles has been installed to facilitate improved access to boating for people with disability.
- **Hastings:** Works are underway at the Hastings boating facility to offer all-tide access and improved berthing, launching and retrieval efficiency. In Winter 2021, the four-lane boat ramp was upgraded and extended by six metres to enable safe launching and retrieving at low tide. Dredging and a second pontoon, mirroring the existing pontoon, will be installed in 2022-23 to double the temporary berthing capacity and improve the launching and retrieval experience for boat ramp users.
- **Rhyll:** Works were progressed throughout 2021-22 to replace the existing three-lane boat ramp to extend deeper into the bay and enable all-tide access. Two new fixed and floating pontoon jetties have been constructed, and the carpark has been reconfigured to make it easier and safer to access the ramps.



Planning for future upgrades to boating facilities around the State

The Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy and associated documents set the vision for the future of boating in Victoria. A key objective of the Strategy is to develop an ongoing program to enhance the Victorian boating experience by renewing existing facilities and building new ones. Each year, action plans advise on investment into boating from the Better Boating Fund, with priorities established through condition assessments of existing assets and consultation with facility managers across Victoria.

When a boat ramp is identified for upgrade or renewal, engineers with experience in civil works, traffic management and coastal processes are engaged to develop concept plans for the upgrade. The key objective of each concept plan is to identify options to increase capacity and improve the overall functionality of the facility. Local management agencies and key stakeholders including recreational boaters are consulted before the concept is released to the broader community for feedback.

Once a concept plan is finalised engineers undertake the process of converting the concept plan into construction ready plans. This begins by undertaking a series of site investigations including cultural heritage assessments, geotechnical, coastal process analysis and environmental assessments. These investigations feed into next steps of obtaining the necessary environmental and statutory approvals required before construction can begin.

In 2021-22, plans were progressed for upgrades at the following key locations across Port Phillip and Western Port: Limeburners Point, Avalon Beach, Kirk Point, St Leonards, Werribee South, Altona, Lang Lang, Warneet, Cowes, Inverloch and Mahers Landing. Plans were also progressed to facilitate upgrades in western Victoria at Rocklands Reservoir, Lake Toolondo, Lake Lonsdale and on the Murray River at Mildura.

Planning for new boating facilities also commenced on the Goulburn River at Shepparton Weir and Howqua Inlet at Lake Eildon.

Upgrades are coming for...



Securing funding for construction at Cape Conran, Apollo Bay, Lake Bullen Merri and Warrnambool boat ramps

Cape Conran

The Cape Conran boat ramp is a popular regional destination for recreational boaters, providing the only direct access to the ocean between Lakes Entrance and Mallacoota. The facility is also frequently used by marine search and rescue groups, the Victorian Water Police and commercial fisherman. Throughout the year, the VFA's Better Boating Victoria (BBV) has worked with the local community, traditional owner groups, recreational boaters and other agencies to develop and finalise detailed designs for the construction of the Cape Conran boat ramp and jetty upgrades.

The project includes building a steeper and longer ramp, constructing a new apron at the top of the two ramp lanes, extending the jetty to provide more space for boats to be tied up, and reducing sand and kelp accumulation and navigation issues by marking hazardous areas of rock. Funding of more than \$2 million has now been secured to upgrade the ramp.

Apollo Bay

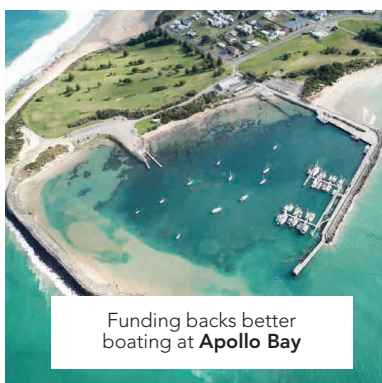
Significant improvements will be made to the Apollo Bay boat ramp. More than \$800,000 in funding has been secured to replace the existing wooden jetty and floating pontoon with larger and more durable pontoons on each side of the boat ramp, creating provisions for all-abilities access. The 50-metre-long floating pontoons will create significantly more space for boats to be temporarily tied up, freeing up capacity at the ramp and improving the efficiency of vessel launching and retrieval. Access at all tides will be made easier through the pontoon replacement work and by dredging alongside construction. This project is expected to be delivered in time for the commencement of the 2022 summer boating season.

Warrnambool

Through the Better Boating Fund, the VFA is facilitating an upgrade to the Warrnambool boat ramp, with up to \$3.5 million available for the works. The project is managed by Warrnambool City Council and will include construction of a new boat ramp surface, adjoining jetties and improvements to the rock revetment. Works commenced in mid-2022 and are expected to be completed by the end of the 2022 calendar year. During the year, a further \$1 million was also announced for critical profile dredging within Warrnambool Harbour to reduce the potential safety risks to boaters caused by waves at the ramp. The works are scheduled to be undertaken at the conclusion of the boat ramp upgrade.

Lake Bullen Merri

Through the Better Boating Fund, the VFA is facilitating an upgrade to the Lake Bullen Merri boat ramp, with up to \$2.5 million available for the works. The project is managed by Corangamite Shire Council and the upgrade will include the complete replacement of the existing boat ramp and installation of a central floating pontoon. Works commenced in early-2022 and will be completed later in the 2022 calendar year.



Funding backs better boating at **Apollo Bay**



Upgrades mean better boating for **Warrnambool**



Funding secured for **Cape Conran** upgrade

Engaging with our fishing and boating communities

Supporting our local fishing communities

Women in Recreational Fishing Network

The Women in Recreational Fishing (WIRF) network continued to strengthen its presence in the recreational fishing sector as a key resource in providing a supportive and inclusive community for women of all backgrounds and skill levels to give fishing a go. It has become an important source of inspiration and motivation for women, not only in Victoria but Australia-wide.

The online network includes over 3,800 women and over the last year, has continued to grow and increase its activity by providing new and exciting opportunities for women to connect and develop their passion for fishing. The WIRF Instagram was created to offer the platform to a much wider audience and keep everyone updated on the network's progress.

Highlights in the last 12 months, with each event providing key opportunities for women to connect and continue their journey in fishing, included:

- Online learning forums (WIRFinars).
- A virtual International Women's Day Panel to celebrate the occasion.
- The *Come Try Fishing* day in Wyndham, which was aimed at giving women an opportunity to learn how to fish, cook and fillet fish, and reverse a trailer.
- The annual *Celebration of Women in Fishing* event at *GoFish Nagambie*, bringing together over 120 women and giving them the opportunity to upskill their fishing knowledge base whilst networking with like-minded women.

We also launched the *WIRF Locals Initiative* led by our WIRF leadership team. The initiative brings women together to meet and learn fishing skills across Victoria. We currently cover four regions across the State and have plans to create more Locals groups in the future.

The WIRF initiative continues to grow and foster talent. Training and development opportunities provided to our leadership team included a virtual leadership program for the yearly intake of new leaders and a leadership training workshop in Eildon to inspire and empower them to become more influential in their communities and industry.



Delivering events throughout the community

Hooked On events

Our Hooked On series continues to grow in popularity showcasing regions around the State as fishing and tourist destinations.

Hooked on Lakes Entrance

The beautiful Lakes Entrance saw the return of *Hooked on Lakes* in 2022. Over 1,000 locals and visitors came along to discover more about the commercial and recreational fishing undertaken in the area. Families were able to participate in fishing clinics, be inspired by cooking demonstrations highlighting local seafood, and take part in fishing themed activities run by the VFA's Education team.

Hooked on Portland

A popular fishing and tourism event held in collaboration with the Glenelg Shire, Hooked on Portland always attracts thousands of visitors to the region. This year's event was no different. Attendees were treated to fishing clinics, seafood cooking demonstrations hosted by celebrity chef Paul West and one our ambassadors Lee Rayner, life jacket servicing hosted by Maritime Safety Victoria, market stalls, youth zone and roving amusement acts. Families also had the chance to chat to Fisheries Officers and participate in the marine display and activities our education team provided. To top off the wonderful day, and as the sun went down, the live music entertainment kept the attendees in town.



Snobs Creek Hatchery Open Day

The annual Snobs Creek Hatchery Open Day attracted hundreds of people to the site. The public were invited to take a self-guided tour of the hatchery, and our team were on hand to share their knowledge about the process of growing trout, salmon and native fish. Families also had the chance to engage with our Fisheries Officers at the VFA Education Trailer and were treated to a flare demonstration by Maritime Safety Victoria, which is always a crowd favourite and very important in fishing and boating safety.



Go Fish Nagambie

The VFA is a key partner of *Go Fish Nagambie*, which is the largest fishing competition in the Southern hemisphere. The competition is spread over 30 kilometres of beautiful waters at Lake Nagambie and features an outdoor fishing and lifestyle festival.

To engage a wider audience at the event, the VFA ran its popular Vic Fish Kids program. A netted area was stocked with silver perch and each of the 130 kids who came through tried their hands at fishing and left with their very own fishing rod. The kids were guided by the VFA team, WIRF leaders and Lee Rayner to learn tips and tricks about fishing. The team also greeted hundreds of attendees at the stand to chat all things fishing and learn about the many initiatives underway by the VFA.

Murray Codference

This year's event was held on 26 February in Shepparton, the focus was on our native fish, providing a deeper understanding of our amazing native fisheries, and a chance to learn some new techniques and networking with other like-minded anglers. The event was also livestreamed, providing people the opportunity to experience the event from the comfort of their own home.

The event featured an extensive program of speakers and topics: two-time Mulwala Classic winner, Thomas Pinte, who shared a few secrets on lake fishing for trophy cod, as well as fisher Kate Norman, who has become known in recent times as the 'Eildon cod whisperer'. John Fyffe spoke on the art of clearwater cod fishing with bait. Bill Classon, editor of *Freshwater Fishing* magazine, shared his top tips in targeting Murray cod and golden perch. Jason Lieschke, Senior Scientist, Arthur Rylah Institute presented about Eppalock cod recruitment. Our WIRF leaders, Karen Rees and Caitlin Berecny, provided an update on the achievements and future plans for the network, while Ben Scullin, Executive Officer of VRFish, shared his tips on catching cod and VRFish's advocacy for this important species over the years.

Attendees also heard updates on our new Northern Native Fish Hatchery at Arcadia, an overview of Victoria's boating projects currently underway, a new tracking cod project in the Goulburn River above Lake Eildon, ongoing recovery efforts of Macquarie perch, and an update on compliance effort relating to Murray Cod.

Troutfest

In partnership with the Australian Trout Foundation and Fishcare, the Troutfest event was all about the celebration of trout. Families had a wonderful time at Eildon participating in lots of activities from learning all about fish production and stocking at the Snobs Creek hatchery, hearing from industry experts including our WIRF Leaders sharing tips and tricks on catching trout, casting demonstrations from experts, including fly and lure casting competitions to fishing clinics and fish stocking at the Eildon pondage. Overall, it was a successful day out highlighting what Eildon has to offer as a fishing and tourism destination.



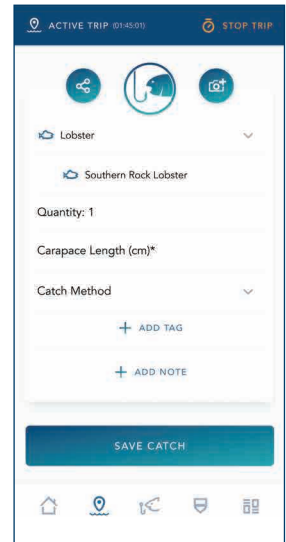
Improving our digital communication

Around 31 percent of Victorians were born overseas and speak a language other than English. Many of these people have a strong connection to fishing, collecting and diving but come from countries where fishing regulations are non-existent. As such it is necessary to develop different communication tools to assist our Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities participate in sustainable and responsible fishing practices.

For over a decade now, the VFA's Education and Enforcement team has developed relationships with many of our CaLD fishing communities. We work with them to identify the barriers different communities may have when it comes to receiving and understanding information. Language is, by far, the biggest of these for CaLD communities. Translating hard copy flyers, pamphlets and booklets is a basic 'must do' for most organisations. However, with a changing world and reduced opportunity to get information in a hard copy form, ease of navigation through the electronic world has become imperative.

As the VFA continues to strive to deliver best practice community engagement programs, we have added two significant products to our ever-growing engagement kit in language web pages and access to the GoVicFish app in language. These products will give our Chinese and Vietnamese speaking communities a way to easily navigate complex fishing rules, water safety and management information in a way that encourages understanding and promotes responsibility, entirely in language, within the electronic domain.

To further extend on these types of products, Victoria's Recreational Rock Lobster Tagging Program has also gone digital. This type of platform makes reporting catches even easier for recreational fishers. The VFA's smartphone app, *GoFishVic*, now allows fishers to allocate a digital tag for rock lobster catch. Plastic tags are no longer utilised, and this has successfully reduced the environmental footprint of the program. Information collected through the program is building our capacity to maintain a healthy fishery for all sectors and is absolutely vital to the long-term sustainability of stocks.



Delivering improvements through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program

For over 20 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 Fishing and Boating.

The Recreational Fishing Grants Program consists of four separate tiers:

1. The Commissioning Grants Program - This program funds large VFA-led priority projects. In 2021-22, a total of \$396,450.00 was provided 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. It also funded 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 2021-22, a total of \$916,883.00 was awarded to ten projects.
3. The Intermediate Grants Program - This program was introduced in 2021. It provides grants of up to \$50,000 to angling clubs and community groups for projects to improve recreational fishing. In 2021-22, a total of \$90,267.00 was awarded to two projects.
4. The Small Grants Program - The Small Grants 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 2021-22, a total of \$23,962.00 was awarded to nine 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).



Three key projects completed in 2021-22 were:

Pritchards Landing, Glenelg River

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority received \$84,830 for an upgrade of the jetty at Pritchards Landing on the Glenelg River. The new all-abilities jetty retained its 'L' shape, but now extends 1.5 metres further into the Glenelg River for greater depth during low tide. New floating pontoons enable boats to be tied up safely, making the boat ramp more efficient on busy days. There is also an aluminium walkway, complete with handrails, from the bank to ensure the jetty continues to function at all water levels. Pritchards is a very popular site in the Lower Glenelg National Park, offering fishers the chance to tangle with bream, estuary perch and prized mulloway.



Solar Lighting at St Helens, Geelong

The Association of Geelong and District Angling Clubs received \$61,304 through two separate grants to install solar lighting along the rock wall at St Helens, Geelong. Two solar lights were initially installed along the northern half of the wall, and a second grant was provided to allow more lights to be installed in the carpark at the southern end of the rock wall toward Rippleside Park. It means safer and more convenient night sessions in all seasons for those targeting popular species such as snapper, flathead, squid and whiting.



Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration

The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority received \$110,000 for a habitat restoration project to install woody habitat in the Gippsland Lakes for the benefit of key species such as black bream, estuary perch and Australian bass. The project placed over 90 red gum stumps at strategic depths adjacent to the silt jetties in the Gippsland Lakes. This was almost double that originally planned due to partnering with Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) who supplied and coordinated the distribution of refuse timber from the bushfire clean-up.



Supporting our local boating communities

New destination berths

Destination boating is an important segment of the Victorian recreational boating market and is increasing in popularity. During 2021-22, the VFA through its Better Boating Victoria initiative, entered into arrangements with three private marinas around Port Phillip at Geelong, Wyndham Harbour and Sandringham to provide 'free' overnight berthing at these facilities under a funded trial. The free berthing trial was conducted over the peak boating season from December to April and was available to boaters who booked the locations in advance of their stay.

Key projects previously funded across the Gippsland Lakes were also delivered during the year. These included upgrades to destination jetties at Ocean Grange, Steamer Landing and Eagle Point, along with upgrades to public mooring facilities across the lakes.



Maintenance and design guidelines for Victorian boating asset managers

During 2021-22, the VFA's Better Boating Victoria team delivered two sets of guidelines to help asset managers design and maintain Victoria's public boating facilities. The guidelines were developed in conjunction with public boating facility managers and boating industry stakeholders and provide state-wide reference tools to assist public boating facility managers in the design and maintenance of boating facilities across Victoria.

The *Victorian Boating Facility Design Guidelines* identify the key design aspects to be considered when planning and designing a boating facility. They provide technical and operational advice that best assists the functional design and layout of the boat ramp or facility, and provide advice throughout the stages of design, implementation and construction. The guidelines will ensure boat ramp designs meet safety and functionality standards, while also considering the needs of local users.

The *Victorian Boating Facility Maintenance Guidelines* were prepared after a review of the existing maintenance standards and practices for boating facilities across Australia. The guidelines provide advice to public boating facility managers and maintenance personnel on how to schedule and conduct maintenance, inspections and repairs to ensure their boating facilities remain functional and safe for users.

Importantly, both sets of guidelines are specific to Victorian conditions and will be reviewed every few years to ensure they remain up to date and relevant.

Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program

Grants awarded to improve access

Getting out on the water was made more accessible at a number of Victorian boat ramps with the release of funding for a new grant program; the Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program. From the 2021-22 Better Boating Fund, funding was made available to eligible boat ramp managers through a competitive grants process and in March 2022, the Government announced that six organisations were successful in obtaining funding worth a total of \$487,490 to be invested across seven projects.

In Port Phillip Bay, grants will improve boating access at Tootgarook and Half Moon Bay through maintenance dredging, while two kinds of dredging – a trial of a cutter section dredge and use of a long reach excavator – will be undertaken at the entrance of Kananook Creek in Frankston.

In Gippsland, a grant worth \$148,760 will be used to conduct maintenance dredging at ‘The Cut’ on the Mitchell River near Paynesville, providing better access for boaters launching at Eagle Point boat ramp, and removing debris from the water.

The City of Greater Geelong has been awarded \$76,000 to develop a 25-year dredging management plan for Clifton Springs harbour – ensuring its viability and reducing the frequency of maintenance dredging currently required, which has been undertaken in recent months with a long reach excavator.

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water will put a \$71,000 grant towards the development of a detailed future dredging plan for Lake Lonsdale and Lake Fyans. Sand and silt accumulate at these inland lake boat ramps, and the funding will be used to carry out detailed surveys and commence planning and approvals to support future dredging at these locations.

Further grants were awarded later in 2022-23 to undertake dredging at the St Leonards boat ramp (\$15,000), the Schnapper Point and Fisherman’s Beach boat ramps (\$158,000), and at the Rosebud Safe Harbour (\$10,000), bringing the total investment under the program to \$670,490.

Coordinated Dredging Program Port Phillip and Western Port public boats ramps

The VFA is also progressing a coordinated dredging program for Victoria’s most popular boating destinations through a more strategic approach to the management of maintenance dredging at public boat ramps in Port Phillip and Western Port.

Consultation as part of the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy showed that a more coordinated approach to dredging was required to proactively dredge before the peak boating season. Currently, dredging is undertaken by individual asset managers at boat ramps and involves specialist equipment removing sediment. At times, sourcing the equipment can be expensive and cause delays.

In 2021-22, the VFA’s Better Boating Victoria team identified a possible 22 boat ramps across the region requiring dredging, 16 of which are in Port Phillip, and commenced planning for environmental approvals and permits to develop the dredging program. The approval and tender documentation are expected to be finalised by the 31 December 2022, and available to the public in 2023.



All-abilities access network plans for expansion

As part of delivering the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy, the Victorian Government has committed to expanding the accessible boating facility network across the State. Accessible boating means that people of all abilities and ages can safely enjoy time out on the water and includes planning universally designed pontoons and access davits.

Significant engagement and design work to install accessible boating facilities at boat ramps located in Hastings, Lakes Entrance and Port Welshpool was undertaken during the year. The VFA's Better Boating Victoria team worked closely with asset managers and local stakeholders in the design of these accessible facilities to ensure that they provide safe and unobstructed access to members of the community with mobility impairments and meet universal design standards.

Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance Program

Improving the boating experience for all Victorians includes having well maintained and reliable access to public boating facilities. The 2021-22 Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance Program allocated grants through a competitive funding round for structural maintenance projects to ensure that public boating facilities remain accessible and safe for launching and retrieving boats.

In June 2022, the Government announced the funding of 13 projects, worth more than \$1.74 million:

Mansfield Shire Council	Lake Eildon priority boat ramps refurbishment works	\$74,000
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	Lake Fyans Marina boat ramp resurfacing and safety works	\$84,000
Gannawarra Shire Council	Kangaroo Lake jetty replacement	\$240,000
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	Sapling Creek boat ramp floating pontoon (all-abilities facility)	\$103,400
The Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board	Rocky Valley Dam boat ramp upgrade	\$116,000
Gippsland Ports	Marlo Jetty low landing upgrade	\$9,600
Gippsland Ports	Raymond Island/Steamer Landing jetty maintenance	\$22,400
Gippsland Ports	Rutters Jetty upgrade (Port Albert)	\$16,000
Campaspe Shire	Victoria Park boat ramp upgrade (Stage 2)	\$270,774
East Gippsland Shire Council	Shaving Point boat ramp upgrade (Metung)	\$577,693
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Rye boat ramp west jetty repairs	\$98,440
City of Greater Geelong	Ocean Grove boat ramp northern jetty refurbishment	\$120,000
Tooradin Foreshore Committee of Management	Tooradin boat ramp floating jetty repairs	\$10,905

A further \$60,000 was awarded later in June 2022 to undertake critical maintenance to the Patterson River boat ramp.



Promoting safe and sustainable fishing and boating

Broadening our communication pathways

While many Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities engage frequently in recreational fishing and diving, they are a severely underrepresented stakeholder group within current government processes. Processes that should provide an opportunity for all Victorian communities to contribute and influence management decisions.

The VFA places a high priority on closely engaging with its many stakeholders to deliver the best possible outcomes for fisheries management and sustainability in Victoria.

Earlier this year, the VFA established a Community Reference Group (CRG). We will be inviting up to 12 people from a variety of CaLD communities who are interested in fishing, diving or our aquatic environment to assist the VFA to ensure responsible use of our fish resources by:

- Providing information to the VFA on any matters relating to fishing in their local community.
- Contributing their community perspectives to inform government policies, programs, and service delivery.
- Taking information back to their communities about VFA services and programs.
- Promoting the benefits of fishing within their communities.
- Being a conduit for the flow of information from the multicultural community and back.
- Promoting unity, understanding and harmony among Victoria's diverse fishing communities.

Open dialogue between CaLD communities and the VFA around fishing issues will enhance fisheries management for current users as well as future generations.



Increasing the safety of rock fishing and diving

Trialling new rules around rock fishing

Rock fishing is a great way to catch fish and enjoy the outdoors, but it can also be dangerous. Lifejackets save lives and help prevent further deaths. The VFA, in consultation with key recreational fishing groups and partner agencies such as Life Saving Victoria and Parks Victoria, has launched a two-year trial requiring rock fishers to wear a lifejacket whilst fishing at 10 locations that have been identified as particularly high-risk.

The trial is being supported by an extensive education program to ensure fishers are aware of the new laws and to promote safe rock fishing practices. Information on the trial is available through a series of videos and fact sheets in multiple languages, signs at each of the sites, a new web page and an advertisement in the Recreational Fishing Guide. The VFA has also published a series of social media posts, including two WeChat articles to help fishers with the new requirement. Learn more about the trial at: vfa.vic.gov.au/rockfishing

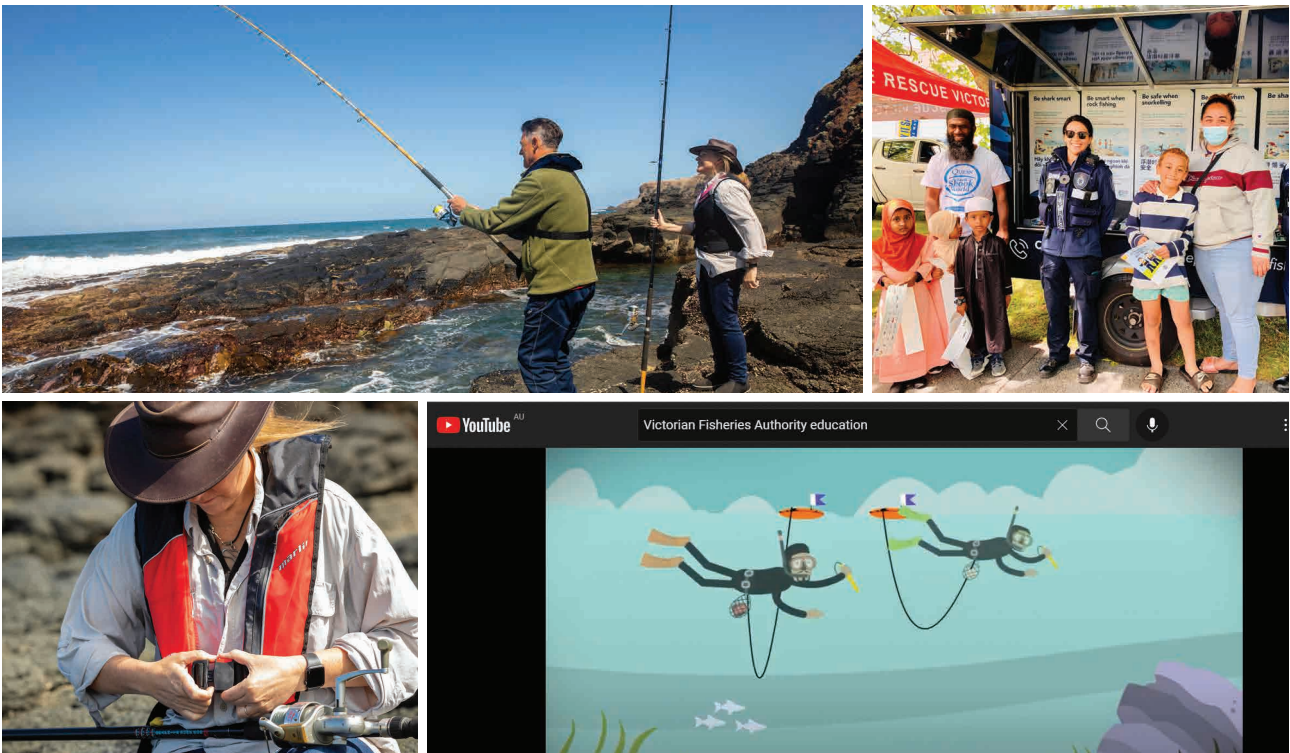
Improving water safety for our CaLD community

Unfortunately, drownings involving our Cultural and Linguistic Diverse (CaLD) fishing and diving communities are increasing. Over the past decade, 114 people from CaLD backgrounds have drowned and 20 percent of these deaths were related to fishing, mainly rock fishing and diving.

To decrease this terrible statistic, the VFA's Education and Enforcement team has been delivering safe fishing and diving information to all our rock fishing and diving communities by developing a variety of water safety products. These include flyers and booklets in multiple languages, animations, videos, magnets, electronic 'pop up' messages embedded into the VicFish app and display boards.

These products are enhanced through our programs, which include water safety days developed with high-risk communities, water safety discussions with divers accessing the abalone tool program, pop-up events, online learning programs and through social and traditional media campaigns.

To expand our reach, we also work with several other agencies including Lifesaving Victoria, Victorian Police, Victorian Multicultural Commission and Maritime Safety Victoria.



Delivering waterway manager grants for aids to navigation and waterway safety

Working with waterway managers and Maritime Safety Victoria, the VFA has delivered a program to review and support the delivery of waterway management requirements for recreational boating activities.

The requirements include regular waterway surveys and the periodic review of rules, aids to navigation, signage, compliance, education and use of operating zones.

This included funding 11 projects across the state to support waterway managers to implement recreational boating-related requirements.



The recipe for a holiday to remember

Our School Holiday Program was reinvigorated in 2021-22 to include new activities as well as retaining the much-loved old favourites and attracted 2,904 participants over the year.

A highlight was FishClub, a partnership between Port Phillip Ferries and the VFA in which Melbourne-based families boarded the ferry from Docklands to Geelong for an interactive experience to learn about marine creatures, caring for the environment and responsible fishing before disembarking at Wangim Walk to try their hands at fishing. Fish Club would not have been possible without the wonderful assistance of volunteers from Leopold Angling and Aquatic Club and the Bellarine Pirates. These passionate anglers provided one-on-one assistance to FishClub members – showing them how to rig lines, bait hooks, handle and release fish. The VFA provided each participant with a rod and tackle to take home and education material to encourage families to keep up their responsible fishing.

Another innovation was partnering with the Swan Bay Environment Association and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to provide educational activities that highlight the magical fish nursery that is Swan Bay. A key focus of these activities was to celebrate the Wadawurrung's ongoing custodianship of this area and promote stewardship of the fringing habitats that are crucial to maintaining the fish nursery. Participants also helped us plant indigenous saltmarsh gardens.

Family fishing trips and Marine Biology cruises on Port Phillip Bay were highlights, as usual, as was Fishy Tales; our Partnership with the Queenscliff Library. In this activity, young children come into the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre to interact with some of our marine invertebrates.



Helping to protect Victoria's ecosystems

Management of the abalone virus

Follow the resurgence of the Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG), the VFA has worked closely with industry and Agriculture Victoria to curb the outbreak. In response to the positive test results mid last year, control areas were implemented quickly in the Portland region to prevent further spread of the virus. These control areas were kept in place over the past 12 months and primarily restricted rock lobster and abalone fishing in infected locations. Further precautionary measures included regular surveillance diving, laboratory testing of abalone samples, and prohibitions surrounding the use of abalone as bait and returning abalone shell and guts to the water. An accompanying educational strategy was pivotal in ensuring fishers and boaters understood the severity of the virus, and the importance of cleaning dive gear and vessels.

The VFA is pleased to announce these actions paid off. The virus was contained to the Portland area, and it has not been observed since early-2022. Based on these results, all control areas were lifted at the end of May 2022. Severe abalone depletion during this time highlights the serious nature of AVG and the importance of acting quickly to control the spread. The Western Abalone Divers Association (WADA) has responded by implementing a voluntary commercial fishing closure for the 2022-23 abalone fishing season. This is reflective of WADA's committed attitude to this resource and provides a positive outlook for its longevity.

Recognising that AVG is endemic to Victoria, the VFA will continue to develop mitigation that primarily focus on limiting the spread of any future outbreaks. Fish traceability, ongoing surveillance and working with live-holding facilities remains at the forefront of this strategy.



Citizen-science southern bluespotted flathead frame collection program

The past 12 months have witnessed the commencement of a citizen science program to build our understanding of southern bluespotted ('yank') flathead (*Platycephalus speculator*) populations and the fishery they support in Port Phillip Bay.

The fisher-led program, which is being delivered in close collaboration with recreational fishing partners and fishing clubs across the Bay, is underpinned by targeted monitoring and sampling and the collection of yank frames for analysis and aging of their otoliths. By collecting and analysing yank frames, we will be able to develop valuable insight and bridge knowledge gaps on the species and ultimately optimise management and outcomes to the fishery. The program will allow us to answer questions around how fast yanks grow, at what age and length they are sexually mature, whether there's evidence of ongoing recruitment, and level of fishing pressure the species are currently under and can sustain. The program will also involve a social science component to better understand fisher preferences and for the fishery.



Fantastic snapper recruitment success in Port Phillip Bay

The VFA’s research trawl surveys have indicated that the 2021-22 snapper spawning was the third highest on record (Figure 2). This follows record recruitment in 2018, which means we will have two very strong cohorts entering the adult fishery over the next two to seven years.

In the meantime, there will be fantastic pinky fishing throughout our bays and coastal waters with the 2018 cohort now legal size. These fish will remain widely dispersed until they reach adulthood at about six to seven years of age, when they will undertake the annual spawning migration into our bays and inlets, principally Port Phillip Bay, in November to January each year.

Figure 3 shows the predicted adult snapper relative abundance (blue line) based on the strength of historic recruitment. That is, the abundance of all cohorts in the fishery are combined to forecast the relative abundance of adults in the fishery for the next six to seven years. It is then possible to model the historic abundance with catch rates observe in creel surveys to forecast what recreational catch rates will be into the future (red line). As can be seen, if history repeats and our modelling remains accurate, the fishing will be good to excellent for the foreseeable future.

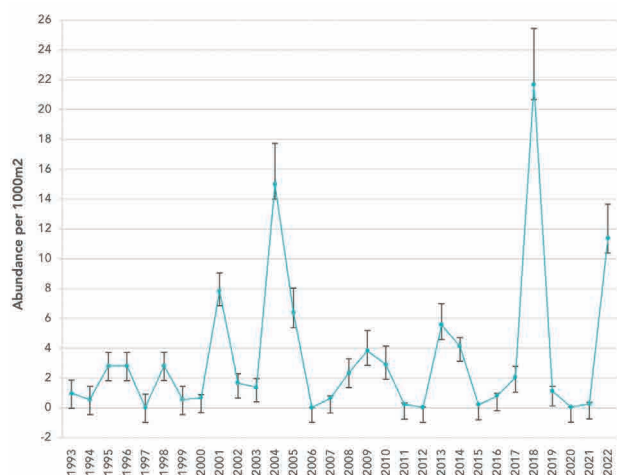


Figure 2: Abundance of snapper recruits in Port Phillip Bay.

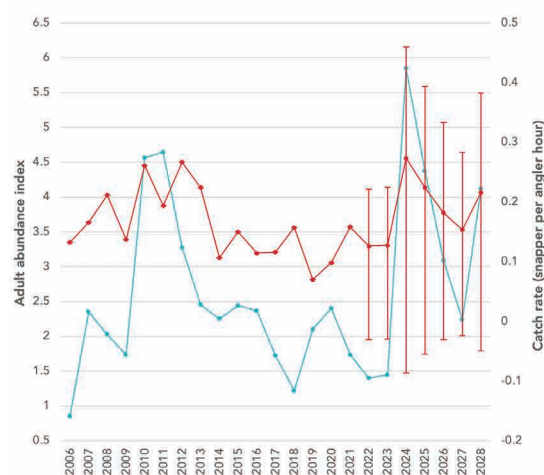


Figure 3: Adult abundance index (blue line) and observed and forecast angler catch rates (red line).



Record installation of fish habitat into freshwater systems

Over the past 12 months, the VFA has worked with Bushfire Recovery Victoria to help repurpose a record amount of tree debris, such as large logs and root balls, resulting from storm damage into valuable instream habitat for Murray cod, golden perch and a range of other species.

A total of 1,194 tree stumps in 188 truckloads have been installed across 13 locations in Victoria, including the Goulburn River, Barwon River, Lake Eppalock, Lake Boga, Merrigum Lake (Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club), Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery Visitor Pond and Rainbow Lake.

The VFA formed a working group across six Catchment Management Authorities, OzFish Unlimited, VRFish, the Department of Land, Water and Planning and private contractors to connect with Bushfire Recovery Victoria and best utilise available root balls and logs following storm damage. This is a great example of working in partnership across Government, bringing together fish and land management, to build better recreational fisheries and improve river health in Victoria.



Reduction of carp in Toolondo

Toolondo Reservoir is located south of Horsham and when water levels are sufficient has a reputation as one of Victoria's best stocked trophy brown trout fisheries. It also has a significant population of carp.

This past year, the VFA and Grampian Wimmera Mallee Water took advantage of a lower water level to reduce the carp numbers in the lake and improve the future productivity of the water system. A commercial carp fisher was engaged to do the job and removed over 62 tonnes of the fish. The carp were put to good use by being turned into products such as fertiliser.



Wild trout Fisheries Management Program with Australian Trout Foundation

The Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program continued in 2022 thanks to the passionate work of the Australian Trout Foundation (ATF) and recreational fishing licence fees. Key project delivery components in 2022 included the collection of water temperature information in priority trout streams to be made available to fishers and the evaluation of incubator and fry stocking trials.

Water temperature is known to have a large impact on trout feeding and populations so revealing this information for key Victorian trout streams will provide unprecedented insight for trout fishers so they can plan their trips with the best chance of success and for managing trout fisheries into the future.

The incubator and fry stocking trial aims to understand whether stocking brown trout fry can help accelerate the recovery of high-country brown trout populations following environmental events such as bushfires and floods. The success of fry stocking trials is being evaluated by fisheries scientists using follow up electrofishing surveys and genetic identification analysis. Results of the fry stocking trials will be shared at the Talk Wild Trout Conferences.



Native Fish Report Cards - monitoring native fish species in rivers across Victoria

In 2022, the Native Fish Report Card Program continued with the sixth consecutive year of surveys conducted across 10 priority Victorian rivers, encompassing populations of Murray cod, trout cod, Macquarie perch, silver perch, golden perch, southern blackfish, freshwater catfish, Australian bass and estuary perch.

The Program, which is a collaboration with the Department of Land, Water and Planning and recreational fishers, provides an unprecedented dataset that is used to monitor native fish population health, track fisheries performance, and assess the effectiveness of fisheries management interventions, such as fish stocking, regulations and habitat restoration. The report cards are presented annually at the Murray Codference and published in the Murray Codference Proceedings to engage anglers in native fishery improvements and assist in their fishing success.

It's very encouraging to see that most of our native fish populations appear to be increasing in abundance.



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 2021-22 is detailed in the table below.

Table 1: Summary of enforcement activities

Enforcement activities	2021-22	2020-21
Inspections		
Aquaculture inspections	36	40
Commercial fishing inspections	625	926
Marine safety inspections	5,898	4,231
Recreational fishing inspections	45,838	43,799
Investigations		
13FISH calls	1,763	2,105
Investigations initiated	41	40
Marine Park activities		
Marine Park inspections	221	224
Marine Park patrols	1,648	1,533
Enforcement actions		
Offenders detected	4,835	4,653
Verbal warning given	1,779	1,357
Official warning issued	2,240	2,101
Infringement notice issued	1,584	1,913
Prosecution brief submitted	28	20



Our investigations and prosecutions of black-market fisheries crimes

The illegal catch and sale of fish and other marine and freshwater species threatens the sustainability of our fisheries resources as well as the licenced commercial fishers and businesses doing the right thing. A major focus for the VFA is therefore the disruption and prosecution of black-market trading.

Case study: Abalone trafficking

Following a comprehensive inter-agency investigation, a shop owner in Springvale was prosecuted for trafficking a commercial quantity of abalone over a six-month period on three separate occasions. On one of those occasions, investigators from the VFA's State-wide Investigations Group had identified the offender receiving 10 kilograms of shucked (shelled) abalone meat and one greenlip abalone, for which he had paid unlawful divers \$900. In sentencing the offender, the presiding Magistrate explained:

"The whole purpose of the regulation of a priority species (here, abalone), is to protect a vulnerable resource. Trafficking exploits that resource and means that the viability of those resources into the future is compromised. If left unchecked, that natural resource will be depleted fully. Trafficking relies on there being a market – where there is a market, there is temptation for others to exploit. This is a serious offence."

The offender in this instance was convicted and fined \$25,000 and ordered to pay \$6,500 in costs.

Case Study: Taking commercial quantities of abalone

A group of youthful offenders were charged with multiple counts of taking commercial quantities of abalone and related offences between 2020 and 2021. To date, six members of the group have been dealt with by the Courts – each entering pleas of guilty following disclosure of a detailed brief of evidence. Receiving penalties commensurate to their involvement in the enterprise and subjective circumstances, the sentencing Magistrate expressed that the objective seriousness of the offending would ordinarily call for terms of imprisonment as there had been significant impact to the fishing industry. In each case, the Magistrate made significant prohibition orders under s130 of the Fisheries Act, between two and four years in length. Significant financial penalties ranging between \$3,000 and \$10,000 were imposed, as well as lengthy community corrections orders on each offender.

Case Study: Unlawful take of golden perch

In a joint operation between the VFA, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (Fisheries), NSW Fisheries and NSW Police, an offender was charged with the illegal use of mesh nets to harvest 12 tonnes of golden perch over a two-year period and the illegal sale of those fish. The offending fisher was convicted in the Mildura County Court for transacting in around \$200,000 of unlawfully taken fish.



Increasing our in-house prosecution capability

Creation of a VFA Prosecutions Unit

In July 2021, the VFA Prosecutions Unit was established to deliver in-house prosecutions services of fisheries and other related offences. Sitting within the VFA's Education and Enforcement Division, the goal of the Prosecutions Unit is to contribute towards the execution of the VFA's enforcement function through the delivery of an effective, ethical and high-quality criminal prosecutions service. Headed by a Principal Lawyer, members of the Prosecutions Unit provide support to Fisheries Officers and Investigators through provision of legal advice in relation to investigations and prosecutions, conducting prosecutions of Fisheries and other related offences, and contributing to law reform relating to enforcement and prosecutions.

The Prosecutions Unit works closely with both internal and external stakeholders, including the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, the Victorian Office of Public Prosecutions, Victorian Courts and other regulatory bodies in executing its functions and conducting prosecutions.

Since its establishment, the Prosecutions Unit has:

- Taken over the prosecutions of 30 matters progressing through the Magistrates' Court and County Court of Victoria;
- Commenced 19 in-house prosecutions;
- Commenced one appeal;
- Finalised 16 in-house prosecutions; and
- Assessed and referred 28 matters for prosecution.

The VFA Prosecutions Unit continues to grow with the recent recruitment of a Senior Prosecutor to assist with the increasing workload and complexity of prosecutions conducted by the VFA. With the addition of further prosecutors, the VFA Prosecutions Unit becomes better equipped to deliver quality prosecution services and enhancing enforcement outcomes for our community.

Raising the benchmark in Investigator qualifications

Investigations undertaken by the VFA's State-wide Investigations Group are serious, complex and require presentation of evidence in the Magistrates and County Courts. To ensure they are best equipped and trained, Investigators qualified in the Diploma of Government Investigations this year. The qualification covers the competencies required by persons responsible for the coordination and supervision of investigations. It is suitable for investigators who undertake advanced skilled duties in complex government investigations. The Diploma of Government Investigations is now the benchmark for VFA investigators.



Our contribution to Marine Safety Compliance

Fisheries Officers within the VFA have a diverse role in managing the State’s recreational and commercial fisheries. In addition, Fisheries Officers have an important role in promoting safe and responsible boating on Victorian waters, which includes conducting inspections of vessels to ensure compliance with the Marine Safety Act and Regulations. During a routine inspection, the master of the vessel can expect to have their safety equipment, vessel registrations and marine licences inspected to ensure compliance within the legislation.

During 2021-22, 5,898 boating safety inspections were carried out by Fisheries Officers. This resulted in the detection of 1,207 individual offenders with Fisheries Officers issuing 650 verbal warnings, 610 official warnings, 313 infringement notices and two prosecution briefs of evidence for breaches of the Marine Safety legislation.

Our Fisheries Officers also have a close working relationship with Safe Transport Victoria (STV) and the Water Police to ensure a joined-up approach to boating safety. The Braeside office is one example of the collaboration between STV and the VFA sharing resources and assets to conduct regular patrolling activities. This collaboration has resulted in increased patrol days, information sharing, enforcement consistency across the two agencies, and STV’s inclusion into VFA targeted operations. The collaboration also assists in ensuring better safety outcomes through the use of intelligence gathered by the VFA, STV and the Water Police to target non-compliance hotspots.





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: Sustainably managed fish and boating resources

Objective Indicators:

- Sustainability of assessed fish stocks
- Improved recreational fishing and boating services and facilities

The VFA's departmental objective supports the development of sustainable fishing and aquaculture activities in Victoria and the delivery of improved recreational fishing and boating services and facilities so that boating and fishing are more accessible to more people and deliver outcomes that provide benefits to Victorians.

The VFA achieved its departmental objective (Table 2) and met performance targets (Table 3) for 2021-22.

Table 2: Progress towards the departmental objective

Measure (unit of measure)	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Percentage of quota-based fish stocks that were assessed during the year as being sustainable (percent)	100	100	100	100

Table 3: Performance against output performance measures

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2021-22 target	2021-22 actual	2020-21 target	2020-21 actual
Quantity					
Better boating initiatives commenced	number	16	16	8	8
Community and stakeholder engagement information forums – fisheries	number	10	10	10	10
Complete stock assessment for key quota managed fish species	number	3	3	3	3
Complete total allowable commercial catch setting processes for key quota managed fish species	number	3	3	3	3
Develop, implement and review overarching fisheries compliance strategy	number	1	1	1	1
Enhance levels of community participation in achieving fisheries compliance through calls to the 13FISH reporting line	number	1,750	1,673	1,750	2,105
Key fisheries managed in accordance with best practice management plans	number	6	6	6	6
Minimum number of uniformed fisheries officers maintaining operational coverage for priority fishing activity periods, as defined by the Compliance Strategic Assessment	number	17	20	17	21
<i>The 2021-22 actual is higher than the 2021-22 target due to employment of Fisheries Officers to fill existing vacancies, which has enabled increased coverage over priority fishing periods.</i>					
Native and salmonid fish stocked	number (000)	10,000	10,200	8,000	8,377
Recreational boating and fishing infrastructure improvements delivered	number	2	2	6	6
Recreational fishing licences sold online as a proportion of total sales	percent	90	93	90	92
Undertake activities to detect, disrupt and dismantle serious or organised fisheries criminal entities (individuals or groups)	number	20	15	20	12
<i>The 2021-22 actual is lower than the 2021-22 target due to a focus on more complex, resource intensive investigations, as well as the commencement of a large prosecution case. From 2022-23, this performance measure has been amended to better reflect the investigative work undertaken by the VFA.</i>					
Quality					
Key statutory obligations relevant to the Victorian Fisheries Authority complied with (tabling annual report, audits, business plan and board appointments)	percent	100	100	100	100
Timeliness					
Proportion of fisheries cost recovery levies reviewed and set prior to the commencement of the licensing year	percent	100	100	100	100
Research project milestones and reports completed on time	percent	90	90	90	90

Note: an explanation is provided when there is a +/- 5 percent variance between the target and the actual.

Delivering our 2018 State election commitments

Go Fishing Victoria

The Government announced a package of commitments during the 2018 State election to get more people fishing more often and in more places. The initiative, *Go Fishing Victoria – Phase 2*, commenced on 1 July 2019 and committed \$35 million over four years and followed the highly successful first phase, which delivered \$46 million to recreational fishing between 2014 and 2018.

The VFA has successfully delivered all commitments in Go Fishing Victoria – Phase 2 (Table 4).

Table 4: *Go Fishing Victoria - Phase 2*

Election Commitment	Target	Status
Phase out commercial fishing in the Gippsland Lakes through a compulsory buyout to return the Lakes to recreational fishers, boost tourism and create jobs	Cancellation of all Gippsland Lakes commercial net fishing licences by 1 April 2021	Delivered The <i>Marine and Fisheries Legislation Amendment Bill</i> to ban net fishing was introduced to Parliament in August 2019, and enacted in October 2019. All commercial licences were bought back, with payments completed as of July 2020
Grow fish stocking to 10 million fish per year by 2022	Release 10 million fish in the year 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019-20 = 6 million • 2020-21 = 8 million • 2021-22 = 10 million • 2022-23 = 10 million 	Delivered 6.1 million fish were stocked in 2019-20 8.4 million fish stocked in 2020-21 10.2 million fish stocked in 2021-22
Construct a new \$7 million native fish hatchery in Shepparton	Native fish hatchery operational by 2022	Delivered The Northern Native Fish Hatchery, Arcadia, achieved operational status in November 2021
Improve fish habitat in Port Phillip Bay by investing \$2.5 million into projects for reef development	Completion of three artificial reefs by June 2022	Delivered Shellfish reefs were restored at Dromana and 9ft Bank near Geelong in 2021; three rocky recreational fishing reefs were deployed in Corio Bay in 2021, and a reef for kingfish was deployed in Port Phillip Bay in May 2022
Guarantee access to more waterways – allow anglers to use small craft, such as kayaks and boats with electric motors, on specified lakes and reservoirs	Anglers can use and launch small craft such as kayaks and boats with electric motors on by 1 August 2020	Delivered Access to all six waterways was authorised by August 2019 (Tullaroop, Lauriston, Hepburn, Barkers Creek, Upper Coliban and Malmsbury reservoirs)

Table 4 continued on next page

Table 4 continued: *Go Fishing Victoria - Phase 2*

Election Commitment	Target	Status
Invest in fishing infrastructure providing more fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms	Invest \$600,000 on at least five new or upgraded fish cleaning tables and three upgraded fishing platforms	Delivered The VFA has installed new and upgraded fish cleaning tables at Lake Purrumbete, Point Lonsdale Jetty, Avalon, Patterson River, Newport and Hastings. Upgraded fishing platforms were completed in 2020-21 at the Barwon River at Ocean Grove, the Hopkins River at Jubilee Park, and Lasalle's in Geelong.
Introduce a <i>Fishing For All</i> program to promote fishing among groups with low participation	Hold three events a year in 2019-20 and 2020-21	Delivered In partnership with FishCare, the VFA developed the Fishing for All program and has delivered more than six events aimed at increasing the active involvement of people of all abilities into recreational fishing
Invest in science and habitat restoration in the Gippsland Lakes to ensure the environment remains healthy	Deliver a plan for the Gippsland Lakes	Delivered The VFA released the <i>Gippsland Lakes Recreational Fishery Plan</i> in February 2021
Develop a Recreational Fishing Tourism Plan with a focus on events and marketing regions and towns with specific species	Develop a strategy by December 2020	Delivered The <i>Victorian Recreational Fishing Tourism Strategy</i> was released in December 2021 and contains 53 recommendations to be implemented over five years to boost tourism at ten Victorian fishing destinations
Stock Eastern King Prawns into Lake Tyers	Eastern King Prawns are stocked into Lake Tyers by 2021	Achieved The VFA stocked 11,000 fully grown Eastern King Prawns into Lake Tyers in Spring 2020.
Advocate protection of Southern Bluefin Tuna recreational fishing from cuts to bag limits by the Commonwealth	No changes to the existing recreational fishing rules for Southern Bluefin Tuna	Delivered The VFA and the Minister for Fishing and Boating have continued to meet with the Commonwealth to advocate for there to be no changes to the recreational SBT bag limit in Victoria
Improve access for fishing and camping by opening hundreds of kilometres of Crown land river frontages, many covered by grazing licences	Angler access has been improved at 50 sites by December 2021	Delivered The VFA has worked with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to support implementation of this priority via the installation of signs at key access points, listing the camp sites on the VFA website, creating a smartphone app to identify camp sites and access points, developing a Code of Conduct for campers, and leading media enquiries.
Support recreational fishing by offering fishing number plates for cars and trailers	Fishing themed number plates delivered	Delivered Fishing themed number plates with the slogan "Hooked on Victoria" were launched on 19 July 2019

Better Boating Victoria

The Government’s 2018 election campaign committed \$47 million to make it safer, cheaper and easier for boaters and fishers to get out on the water by fixing boat ramps, removing all boat ramp parking and launching fees, and returning fees from licensing and registrations to boating safety and facilities.

All commitments were delivered by September 2022 (Table 5).

Table 5: Delivery of Better Boating Victoria

Election Commitment	Target	Status
Abolish boat ramp parking and launching fees at Victorian boat ramps	By October 2019	Delivered Removal of fees at 34 ramps across 22 councils. Councils have been compensated for forgone boat ramp parking fee revenue.
Deliver a Better Boating Fund to facilitate urgent boat ramp upgrades and continual maintenance for Victoria’s boating infrastructure	Fund to commence on 1 July 2021	Delivered The Better Boating Fund commenced operation on 1 July 2021. Allocation of monies from the Fund will be identified with key stakeholders through the <i>Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy</i> and associated annual action plan/s.
Undertake a review of boating infrastructure management across Port Phillip and Western Port	In 2020-21	Delivered A summary report was released on 20 August 2021.
Deliver a <i>Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy</i> to guide future investment priorities	Develop strategy in consultation with stakeholders by July 2021	Delivered The <i>Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy 2021- 2030</i> was developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and released in 2021.
Upgrade boating facilities at six locations: Mordialloc, Queenscliff, Point Richards, Hastings, Rhyll and the Cowes jetty	Delivery staged over 2021 to 2023	Cowes Jetty – delivered - \$1.4 million. Mordialloc Creek – delivered - \$2.6 million. Stage 1 (ramp) complete. Stage 2 (second pontoon, dredging and carpark) complete (August 2022). Queenscliff – delivered - \$4.9 million. Stage one (carpark and dredging) complete. Stage two (boat ramp and pontoon upgrade) complete (August 2022). Point Richards – delivered - \$3.7 million. Stage one (carpark) complete. Stage two (rock groyne) complete (August 2022). Rhyll – delivered - \$5.3 million. Stage one (carpark) complete. Stage two (ramp and pontoon jetties) complete (September 2022). Hastings – delivered - \$3.4 million. Stage one (ramp) complete. Stage two (pontoon and dredging) complete (September 2022).

Delivering the Minister's 2020-22 Statement of Expectations for the VFA

The Statement of Expectations sets out the Minister for Fishing and Boating's expectations for the VFA's regulation of fisheries matters and outlines a range of improvements and performance targets to enhance administration and enforcement of regulations. The Statement applies to the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022.

Table 6 describes the VFA's actions to deliver the expectations.

Table 6: Reporting of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

1. Timeliness		
Improve the VFA's processes, systems and online capability to create a better user experience through efficient online administrative processes		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Replace the paper-based, resource intensive administration of commercial fishing licence processes with an online system for form submission and approval process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping of requirements completed by June 2021 	✓
Provide clear guidelines on the expected timelines for processing commercial fishing forms and requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VFA website updated by 30 December 2020 	✓
Continue to transition Victoria's commercial fisheries to the Vic-eCatch system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial scallop, sea urchin, octopus and pipi fisheries transitioned to the Vic-eCatch system by 30 June 2022 	Electronic reporting implemented
Continue to enhance and improve data availability for commercial fishers currently using the Vic-eCatch system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vic-eCatch data availability enhancement completed 	✓
Improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the recreational fishing licensing (RFL) system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase out paper-based RFL expiry reminders and replace with emails by 15 March 2021 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network of online RFL agents expanded, with at least 95% of RFL agent sales using the online platform by 30 June 2022 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program to phase out paper and plastic RFLs commenced by 30 June 2022 	✓
Continue to enhance existing e-capability by improving useability of VicRLTag and GoFishVic and the Rec Fishing Guide apps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Useability of the VicRLTag app enhanced and consideration given to digital replacement for plastic tags by 30 June 2021 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of the VicRLTag and GoFishVic apps scoped by 30 June 2021 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement options for Rec Fishing Guide app identified annually 	✓

Table 6 continued on next page

Table 6 continued: Reporting of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

2. Risk-based strategies		
Improve methodology for data collection to inform risk-based strategies, reporting, and a risk-based approach to enforcement of regulation		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Deliver an annual cycle of fish stock assessment and reporting and continue to improve the assessment framework process and reporting of non-quota species and fisheries, including publication of all reports on the VFA website	Aligned with quota seasons, annually	✓
Under the <i>Freshwater Fishery Management Plan 2018-2028</i> , systematically collect fish population health and recreational fishing information to enable the development of harvest strategies for priority recreational fisheries	• Baseline data collected on native fish populations to underpin harvest strategy development underway with progress reported annually	✓
	• Draft harvest strategy, which includes predetermined triggers for high-risk fisheries on track to be completed by 2023	✓
Improve data collection and monitoring programs to enable meaningful targets to be established to measure native freshwater fish populations		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue the <i>Native Fish Report Card</i> program to keep the community updated about the state of native fish populations in Victorian rivers	Native Fish Report Cards produced annually	✓
Rebuild and replenish stocks of our priority native fish species	• Stocking targets outlined in <i>Go Fish Victoria - Phase Two</i> met	✓
	• A new native fish hatchery built in northern Victoria by November 2021	✓
Continue to implement an intelligence-informed risk-based compliance model	• Biennial strategic assessment undertaken to identify emerging risks to the sustainability of aquatic resources (31 Dec 2020)	✓
	• Quarterly analyses of 13Fish calls undertaken to identify common themes and locations	✓
	• Annual review of enforcement actions required in recreational and commercial fisheries undertaken	✓
Ensure planning is in place to manage current and emerging risks		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Maintain community confidence and create a general deterrence	Base model of cover across all fisheries and over holiday and peak activity periods maintained	✓

Table 6 continued on next page

Table 6 continued: Reporting of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

3. Compliance-related assistance and advice		
Continue to provide comprehensive, straight forward and easily accessible information to the community		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue to utilise traditional and emerging social media platforms to deliver key information about fisheries compliance and public safety issues to the community	Closed VFA Fisheries Education Facebook group established to better connect with our schools and family audiences	✓
Continue to develop, review and refine fisheries products to improve the recreational fisher's understanding of regulations and legislation	• Rock Fishing Safety brochures in English, Vietnamese, Chinese, Pashto, Dari and Farsi produced by December 2020	✓
	• Bite-sized Fishing Guides in English, Vietnamese and Chinese published and educational trailer displays – bi-lingual English/Chinese and English/Vietnamese produced by December 2020	✓
Build on previous work promoting stewardship within priority communities and fostering cross-cultural understanding of fishing and sustainable resource use	• 50% of participants in the Schools Education Program drawn from priority communities achieved annually	✓
	• Through the <i>Fishing for Culture</i> program, tailored education to assist newly arrived communities understand recreational fishing rules and how to fish responsibly undertaken	✓
Continue educational programs and events that recognise the VFA's diverse stakeholders and that are implemented in an accessible and inclusive way	Through the <i>Go Fishing Victoria - Phase Two</i> program, family-orientated fishing days to encourage all Victorians of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to give fishing a go are conducted	✓
Continue to find innovative and efficient ways to make information for commercial fishers and aquaculture businesses more easily accessible and understood		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Identify improved methods and avenues to deliver essential information to commercial fishers	• Commercial fishing guide and supplements for all licence classes published and update annually as required	✓
	• Information platform/gateway for commercial fishers (aligned with the Vic-eCatch reporting function) considered and scoped by 30 June 2022	✓

Table 6 continued on next page

Table 6 continued: Reporting of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

4. Incentive-based regulation		
Continue collecting data that enables evaluation of fishing activities to identify opportunities for reduced/redirected enforcement effort		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue to expand the roll-out VMS units across commercial fishing vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VMS units operational in commercial fisheries specified in the <i>Fisheries Regulations 2019</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abalone, rock lobster, giant crab by 1 July 2020 - Corner Inlet Fishery by 1 August 2020 - Sea urchin, banded morwong, trawl, Western Port/Port Phillip Bay, octopus by 1 November 2020 Trial of VMS units in the eel and pipi fisheries completed by 30 June 2021 	✓
		✓
		✓
		✓
		✓
Consider incentive-based approaches to infringements		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Develop a tiered infringement system for breaches of size and catch limits	Proposed model for setting tiered infringements developed by 30 June 2021	✓
5. Cooperation amongst regulators		
Continue to build a more effective and efficient compliance management system across government		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue collaboration on a national level with other agencies involved in fisheries management and enforcement to identify good practice and share lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National engagement through the Fisheries Managers Network and Australian Fisheries Managers Forum achieved annually Collaboration with state and national crime fighting entities undertaken annually Australian Fisheries Crime Prevention Framework completed by 30 June 2021 	✓
		✓
		✓
Facilitate data sharing and collection amongst relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the national Status of Australian Fish Stocks reporting processes to deliver updated reports every two years Assistance in national shark research provided by collaborating with CSIRO 	✓
		✓

Table 6 continued on next page

Table 6 continued: Reporting of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

5. Cooperation amongst regulators (continued)		
Continue to engage and coordinate on a regular basis with other regulators whose roles and responsibilities overlap with those of the VFA		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue collaboration with state level regulators and agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In support of Game Management Victoria, intelligence services and enforcement support provided 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In support of Maritime Safety Victoria, inspections to ensure compliance with maritime safety legislation and promote safe fishing activities undertaken 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to Victoria's All Hazards, All Emergencies approach to emergency management achieved 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>State Emergency Management Plan</i> and <i>State Shark Hazard Plan</i> responsibilities met 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with DELWP on emergency management, particularly shark hazard management, undertaken 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VFA and DELWP MOU detailing collaboration arrangements to minimise protected species interactions developed 	✓
	Continue collaboration with DELWP, EPA, PV, BBV and local governments to deliver <i>Go Fishing Victoria</i> election commitments	Effective collaboration undertaken with DELWP, PV, BBV to deliver <i>Go Fishing Victoria</i> election commitments: implement fish cleaning tables, new reefs, upgrade fishing platforms, provide access to river frontage on Crown land for recreational fishers
6. Stakeholder consultation and engagement		
The VFA understands the changing needs and priorities of commercial fishers, aquaculture businesses, recreational fishers and the community		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue to build strong collaborative relationships with representative bodies and stakeholder groups through regular engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings held with Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV) and the Aquatic Strategic Action Group to collaborate on shared strategic priorities for Victoria's seafood industry 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meeting of the State-wide Recreational Roundtable to ensure collaboration on shared strategic priorities for the recreational fishing community 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings with SIV, VRFish and the Victorian Multicultural Commission undertaken twice annually 	✓

Table 6 continued on next page

Table 6 continued: Reporting of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

6. Stakeholder consultation and engagement (continued)		
Pursue genuine engagement, partnership and participation with Indigenous Victorians		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue to actively engage with Traditional Owner groups who have an interest in fishery management issues	• VFA <i>Aboriginal Engagement Strategy</i> developed by 31 March 2021	✓
	• Review of the VFA <i>Aboriginal Fishing Strategy</i> completed and a redeveloped strategy published by 30 June 2022	Underway
	• Indigenous Victorians employment targets for the new native fish hatchery in Shepparton met by 30 June 2022	Underway
	• Wallpolla 'Culture Based Fisheries' Stocking Pilot Trial complete by 30 December 2021	✓
Continue to remove barriers hindering people from enjoying all that Victoria's recreational fishing has to offer		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue to deliver events that are aimed at providing a safe and enjoyable environment for people to learn about fishing – focussed on all-abilities, families and multicultural communities	• Three <i>Fishing for All</i> events held annually	✓
	• Five <i>Vic Fish Kids</i> events held annually	✓
7. Accountability and transparency		
Ensure that all stakeholders have access to reliable and relevant information in appropriate forms to facilitate a good understanding of fisheries issues and the process by which fisheries management decisions are made		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Remain committed to maintaining an effective and productive consultation and engagement process that involves all stakeholders	• Progress against the VFA <i>Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2019-2021</i> reviewed annually	✓
	• Review of VFA <i>Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2019-2021</i> undertaken by January 2021	✓
	• VFA <i>Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2021-2023</i> drafted by 31 March 2021	✓
Ensure the VFA website and social media provide accurate and up-to-date information	• The VFA website is reviewed to remain fit for purpose and updated as required	✓
	• VFA's social media reach is reviewed annually	✓
Ensure that the VFA website provides timely and transparent information to encourage stakeholders to participate in fishery management decision-making processes	Outcomes of consultative processes on the VFA's website published in a timely manner	✓

Table 6 continued on next page

Table 6 continued: Reporting of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

7. Accountability and transparency (continued)		
Improved transparency and timeliness in publicly reporting on fishery performance to ensure the VFA's objective to sustainably manage Victoria's aquatic resources is being met		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue to report on the status of Victoria's key fish stocks and ensure reports are published on the VFA website in a time appropriate manner	• Stock assessment reports for quota fisheries are published annually on the VFA website	✓
	• <i>Victorian Fish Stock Status Report</i> published on the VFA website	✓
	• Fishery Report Cards provided to industry	✓
	• Completed scientific reports are published on the VFA website	✓
Continue to deliver existing marine and aquaculture management plans and strategies, and review and develop new plans and strategies as required	• Review of the <i>Giant Crab Fishery Management Plan</i> undertaken, and a revitalised plan developed by December 2021	Underway
	• <i>Octopus Fishery Management Plan</i> and <i>Harvest Strategy</i> drafted by 30 June 2022	Underway
	• <i>Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan</i> drafted by December 2021	✓
	• Review of the <i>Victorian Aquaculture Strategy</i> undertaken by 30 June 2021	✓
Continue to implement the <i>Freshwater Fishery Management Plan 2018-2028</i>	VAGO actions implemented as required	✓
Continue to implement the <i>Freshwater Fishery Management Plan 2018-2028</i>	Phase 3 of the Wild Trout Management Program implemented by 30 June 2022	✓
Continue to deliver priority actions and measures in the <i>Victorian Wild Trout Strategy</i>	<i>Native Fish Stocking Strategy</i> drafted for consultation by 30 June 2021	✓
Develop a Native Fish Stocking Strategy	Draft <i>RFL Strategic Plan</i> finalised by early 2021	✓
Develop an <i>RFL Strategic Plan</i>	• <i>Recreational Snapper Fishery Harvest Strategy</i> Pilot commenced by December 2020	✓
	• <i>Recreational Snapper Fishery Harvest Strategy</i> delivered by 30 September 2021	✓
Deliver a recovery plan for the Gippsland Lakes	<i>Gippsland Lakes Recreational Fishery Recovery Plan</i> delivered by 30 December 2020	✓

Table 6 continued on next page

Table 6 continued: Reporting of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

7. Accountability and transparency (continued)		
Increase transparency around how the VFA administers, and where appropriate, enforces regulation		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue to enhance public understanding of fisheries compliance	• Compliance information published on the VFA website on a quarterly basis	✓
	• Explanatory details of relevant enforcement outcomes published on our education-specific social media platforms as needed	✓
Continue the growth of the VFA as a mature statutory authority by demonstrating that government priorities are addressed, and regulatory performance is efficient and effective		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Reporting requirements described in legislation are adhered to by the VFA	• Annual Report published	✓
	• Performance against the SOE, Victorian Government's <i>Budget Paper No. 3 – Service Delivery</i> and the Victorian Government's election commitments published annually	✓
Continue to build the VFA as an effective and innovative organisation, where processes and systems are modern, cost efficient, fit for purpose, accessible, secure and enable collaboration and reporting	• Strategies and plans developed in accordance with the <i>Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Framework 2019 – 2024</i> by 30 June 2022	✓
	• Compliance testing of procurement, contract management, recruitment and IT undertaken in accordance with the <i>Corporate Services Strategic Plan 2020-2021</i> by December 2021	✓
Continue the ongoing transition to a mature stand-alone organisation	• Risk Management Framework developed/updated and implemented in line with Victorian Government <i>Risk Management Framework's</i> changed requirements by 30 June 2021	✓
	• <i>Workforce Strategy</i> developed by 30 June 2022	✓
	• <i>Asset Management Strategy</i> revised and <i>Asset Management Plans</i> for major assets developed by 30 June 2021	✓
	• <i>Fraud and Corruption Control Policy</i> fully implemented by 30 June 2021	✓
Continue to implement the VFA Governance Framework to achieve maturity in all governance principles in the framework	• Development and implementation of mechanisms used to drive and support good governance progressed	On track

Table 6 continued on next page

Table 6 continued: Reporting of the Ministerial Statement of Expectations

7. Accountability and transparency (continued)		
As part of good governance, review the efficiency and effectiveness of the cost recovery model to determine best practice		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Review current cost recovery arrangements and investigate alternative models in consultation with the commercial fishing and aquaculture sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion paper for consultation developed by 30 June 2021 	✓
8. Clear and consistent regulatory activities		
Ensure that regulatory practices are efficient and do not impose an unnecessary burden on regulated parties and the community		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Continue to deliver an annual Education and Enforcement Action Plan	Deliver annual action plan by June each year	✓
Deliver changes to Crown land access to enable camping accessibility on licensed Crown land	<i>Land Act 1958</i> amended to remove the prohibition on camping on Crown land river frontage and 40 new access points created	✓
Explore opportunities to support innovation in Victoria's commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors		
Improvement strategy	Target	Status
Investigate opportunities to increase consumer access to local markets, improve consumers' understanding of local products, and support seafood supply chain value-adding and diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small sales permit trial evaluated and options for extension into the future considered by 30 June 2022 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central and Western Zone Octopus Exploratory Permits evaluated and options for the future considered by 30 June 2022 	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of supply chain project finalised by 1 October 2021 	On track
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In consultation with industry/ASAG, options to support seafood supply chain value-adding, diversification, and improving domestic market opportunities to increase consumer access to local markets explored by 30 June 2022 	✓

Financial Summary 2021-22

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 2021-22 and the two preceding financial years.

Table 7: The VFA's summary financial performance

	(\$ thousand)		
Financial performance	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Total income from transactions	78,761	57,517	54,054
Total expenses from transactions	(81,161)	(58,690)	(56,390)
<i>Net result from transactions</i>	<i>(2,400)</i>	<i>(1,173)</i>	<i>(2,337)</i>
Total other economic flows included in net result	721	(1,020)	21
Net result	(1,680)	(2,193)	(2,316)

	(\$ thousand)		
Financial position	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
As at 30 June 2022			
Total assets	58,227	45,447	41,247
Total liabilities	26,519	14,483	12,048
Net Assets (Equity)	31,708	30,964	29,199

	(\$ thousand)		
Cash Flow Statement	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
for the financial year ended 30 June 2022			
Net cash flows from operating activities	756	1,865	463
Net cash flows from / (used for) investing activities	(2,239)	(3,178)	(2,033)
Net cash flows from / (used for) financing activities	1,728	2,362	1,570
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	245	1,050	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	1,050	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	1,294	1,050	-

Financial performance (operating statement)

The *net result from transactions* was a deficit of \$2.4 million for 2021-22. This largely represents the unfunded non-cash items such as depreciation and amortisation, partially offset by income from trust fund draw downs for capital projects. Funding received from the Department of Transport (DoT) does not fund the VFA for depreciation and amortisation as these are considered to be non-controllable transactions. This will have a cumulative impact on the accumulated deficit in future financial years.

The net result from transactions has decreased by \$1.2 million since 2020-21, largely due to lower trust fund income for capital projects.

Income

Almost all the VFA's income were grants from the DoT. These grants represent the agreed government funding for the VFA to carry out its functions and priorities. The increase of \$21.2 million primarily relates to revenue provided to the VFA for boating infrastructure upgrades across Victoria.

Expenses

Operating expenses totalled \$81.2 million for 2021-22, driven by the delivery of the VFA's core functions across the commercial and recreational fishing sectors, and investment in boating infrastructure upgrades across Victoria. Expenditure in 2021-22 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 \$26 million was spent on boating infrastructure projects. A further \$6.2 million of expenditure in 2020-21 was used to deliver the *Go Fishing Victoria - Phase 2* initiative, including stocking ten million in Victoria's waterways during the year, and the installation of an artificial reef in Port Philip Bay. The remaining expenses were used to deliver the VFA's ongoing legislative and service delivery obligations.

The increase in operating expenses in 2021-22 of \$22.45 million from the previous year was primarily driven by the increased investment in boating infrastructure upgrades across Victoria.

Financial position (balance sheet)

The VFA's net assets were \$31.7 million as 30 June 2022, an increase of \$0.7 million from the previous year. This increase was driven by an increase in assets of \$12.8 million, offset by a \$12.0 million increase in liabilities.

The increase in the VFA's assets were primarily driven by further development of the new fish hatchery at Arcadia, and higher receivables for grant revenues associated with boating infrastructure projects.

Liabilities increased primarily due to higher payables for grant expenses associated with boating infrastructure projects. There were a significant number of boating projects that had met their payment milestone, but had not been paid, by 30 June 2022.

Cash flows

The \$2.2 million net cash payment for the VFA's investing activities during 2021-22 was funded by a net \$1.7 million of cash from financing activities and \$0.5 million from operating grants from trust funds. The \$2.9 million net payments for capital investment during 2020-21 primarily reflected the continued development of the new fish hatchery at Arcadia.

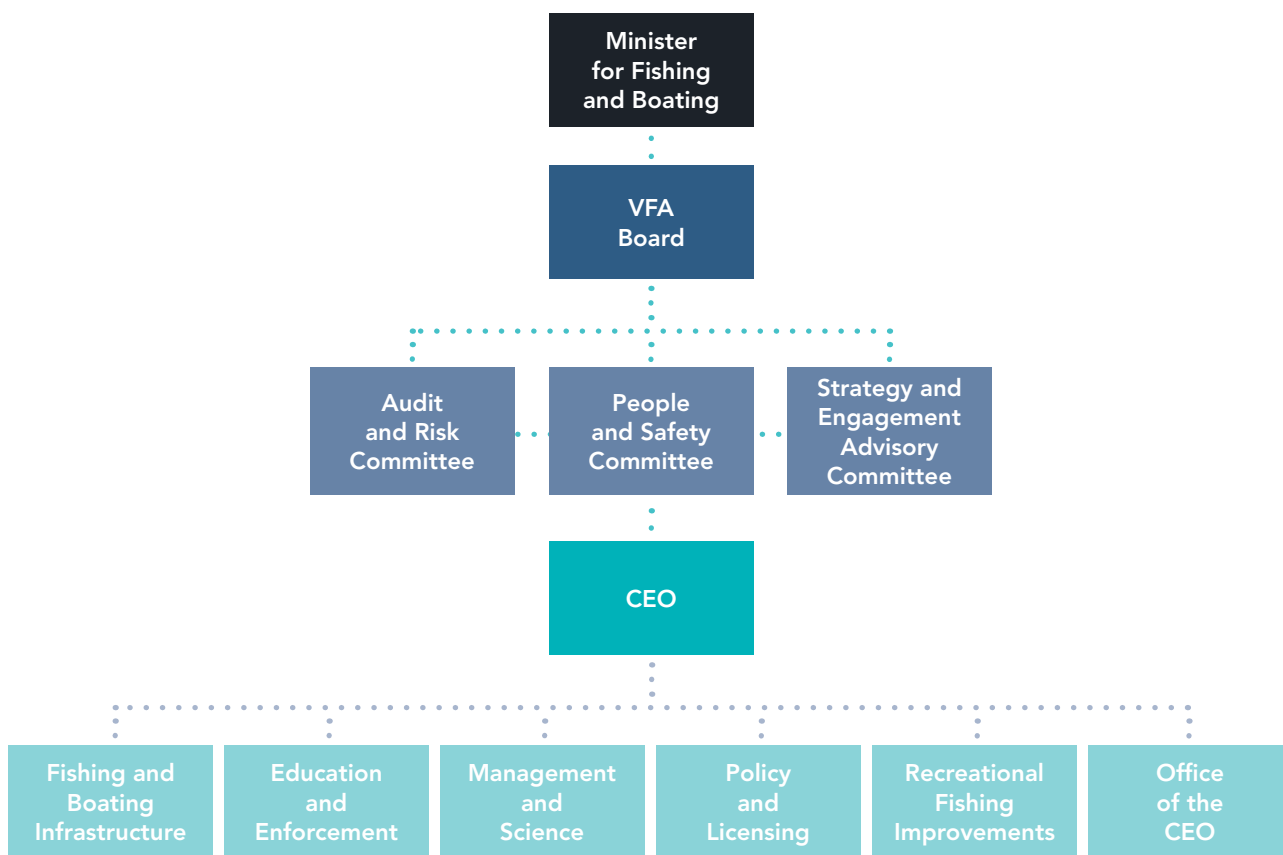
The VFA commenced using its own bank account for the majority of its operational expenditure from 1 February 2021. All cash payments were previously made by the DoT on the VFA's behalf. The VFA received grant payments from the DoT on a periodic basis throughout the financial year.



Our governance arrangements and organisational structure

The *Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016* (the VFA Act) establishes 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 Fishing and Boating 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 VFA is located within the portfolio of the Minister for Fishing and Boating. The Hon. Melissa Horne MP was appointed as Minister for Fishing and Boating in June 2020. The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP was appointed as Minister for Fishing and Boating in June 2022.

Our departmental portfolio

The VFA sits in the Department of Transport (DoT) and under the VFA Act, the role of the DoT 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 Fishing and Boating. 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.

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

Audit and Risk Committee

Key responsibilities of the 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 Committee's key responsibilities are to review, monitor and make recommendations to the Board on workplace health and safety, performance measures of the CEO and Executives, people and culture policies and programs, including diversity and inclusion initiatives, and the VFA's obligations under legislation and industrial instruments.

Strategy and Engagement Committee

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

Our Board members



Ms Gail Owen *VFA Board Chair
Audit and Risk Committee Member*

Ms Owen is an experienced chairperson, a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an order of Australia medal recipient. An inaugural member of two Boards previously, Ms Owen provides strong, integrity-driven leadership. Her background provides a broad knowledge and exposure to many areas relevant to the VFA.



Mr Graeme Dear *VFA Deputy Board Chair
Strategy and Engagement Committee Chair*

Mr Dear has had a long association with fisheries management and research scientists, providing him with knowledge and expertise in the issues pertaining to recreational and commercial fishing decisions in Victoria. As CEO of the East Gippsland Catch Management Authority, he has significant experience in managing a statutory authority, engaging with and building partnerships with stakeholders.



Ms Sophie Harris *VFA Board Director
People and Safety Committee Member*

Ms Harris has widespread professional involvement in project management, strategic planning, industrial relations and in the superannuation industry. She has highly developed stakeholder engagement skills and experience developing and leading education and training programs for a wide range of stakeholders.



Dr Bernadette Northeast *VFA Board Director
Strategy and Engagement Committee Member*

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



Mr Yorick Piper *VFA Board Director
People and Safety Committee Member*

Mr Piper is an experienced advisor, having spent time in the Office of Premier and as a Ministerial Chief of Staff. Combined with a deep knowledge of government and stakeholder engagement and industrial relations he brings a passion for fishing, fishing policy development and the importance of education in the VFA.



Mr Chris Rose

*VFA Board Director
People and Safety Committee Chair*

Mr Rose brings 35 years' experience managing public land and recreational activities with a significant career with Parks Victoria including as Acting CEO. He has a good working knowledge of fisheries and natural resource management with an understanding of government and extensive stakeholder engagement experience.



Mr David Shirer

*VFA Board Director
Audit and Risk Committee Chair
Strategy and Engagement
Committee Member*

Mr Shirer brings a broad range of knowledge and skills with many years of experience to the Board across a number of industry sectors. His qualifications and experience encompass Marine Biology, New Zealand's fisheries industry, together with business and finance. He is a fellow of the Australasian Investor Relations Association.



Ms Joelle Tabone

*VFA Board Director
Audit and Risk Committee Member*

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.

Table 8: Attendance at Board and Committee meetings

Members	Attendance			
	VFA Board	Audit and Risk Committee	People and Safety Committee	Strategy and Engagement Committee
Gail Owen, Chair	6/6	5/5		
Graeme Dear, Deputy Chair	6/6			3/3
Sophie Harris	6/6		5/5	
Bernadette Northeast	6/6			2/3
Yorick Piper	6/6		4/5	
Chris Rose	6/6		5/5	
David Shirer	6/6	5/5		3/3
Joelle Tabone	6/6	5/5		
Rob Hogarth*	-	5/5		

* External Audit and Risk Committee Member

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 20 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 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, boating and program implementation. The role is also directly responsible for 200 staff across Melbourne and regional Victoria.



Divisions	Executive Leaders
<p>Education and Enforcement</p> <p>The Division develops and implements state-wide education and enforcement strategies. It also undertakes state-wide investigations and compliance operations to tackle serious organised criminal activity exploiting fisheries resources.</p>	<p>Director Fisheries Education and Enforcement - Ian Parks</p>
<p>Fishing and Boating Infrastructure</p> <p>Fishing and Boating Infrastructure incorporates Better Boating Victoria and implements the Government's program of boating reforms focused on making it safer, cheaper and easier for Victorians to get out on the water. This division also oversees the Fisheries Infrastructure program, including the Northern Native Fish Hatchery.</p>	<p>Director Better Boating Victoria and Fishing and Boating Infrastructure - Katherine Grech</p>
<p>Fisheries Management and Science</p> <p>The Division delivers core regulatory fisheries science, management and aquaculture services, including fish stock assessment, fisheries monitoring and setting total allowable commercial catches for the rock lobster, abalone, giant crab, Port Phillip Bay, and ocean scallop and urchin fisheries.</p> <p>Policy and Licensing</p> <p>The Division delivers operational policy, access and governance arrangements, planning and program management. It also administers recreational and commercial licensing, quota trading, permits and commercial catch and effort reporting.</p>	<p>Director Fisheries Policy, Management, Science and Licensing</p> <p>Dallas D'Silva – to November 2021</p> <p>Chris Padovani (Acting) – December 2021 to May 2022</p> <p>Monique Leane – from June 2022</p>
<p>Recreational Fishing Improvements</p> <p>The Division delivers recreational fishing improvements activities and projects and supports the disbursement of Recreational Fishing Licence funds to improve recreational fishing opportunities.</p>	<p>Director Recreational Fishing Improvements - Brian Mottram</p>
<p>Office of the CEO</p> <p>The Division manages day to day corporate operations of the authority and delivers business management, financial services and corporate services, including board support and administration.</p>	<p>Chief Operating Officer - Letitia Billings</p> <p>Chief Financial Officer – Simon Leverett</p>

Occupational health and safety

OHS Strategic Plan 2021-2023

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

The 2021-22 financial year saw further implementation of the Strategy approved by the Board in June 2021. 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.

Health & Wellbeing Program 2021-2023

A key part of the VFA's commitment to OHS and the *Occupational Health and Safety Strategy 2021-2023* is employee health and wellbeing.

In keeping with our values, the VFA Health & Wellbeing Program 2021 - 2023 was developed specifically addressing mental, physical, and social health. The goals of the program are to:

- Create an environment that promotes mental wellbeing and prevents and responds to mental health illness/injury.
- Prevent physical illness/injury through health, safety and wellbeing education, resources, and programs.
- Enable connections within the VFA community that support our staff to feel safe and valued at work.

We aim to build an environment that is supportive of our people's best self by undertaking the following:

- Promoting an active and healthy lifestyle (in both the workplace and home).
- Staying well (preventing avoidable illness).
- Creating an open and supportive culture for our employees to address health and wellbeing needs.

The Program has been progressively implemented across the organisation, with staff regularly given access to key tools and promotions with which to improve their health and wellbeing.

Training

The VFA has continued to use a combination of both online training and virtual workshops throughout the year and where possible face to face sessions.

Online training modules were provided to all staff on *Incident Reporting & Notification, Critical Risk Control, Aquatic Risk Awareness, Appropriate Workplace Behaviour, Sexual Harassment, and Return to the Office*.

Critical Risk Control

The identification, assessment and control of hazards and risks is an essential part of our OHS management. Risk assessments completed in 2021 have been systematically reviewed during 2022 to ensure controls remain relevant and effective.

Hazard reporting is a cornerstone in the management of potential OHS risks and education on the importance of reporting hazards has continued, enabling controls to be put in place to reduce the risk of injury.

Safety leadership

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

Stop for Safety is held each May and June and teams stop to identify risks and then plan actions to undertake as a team to help prevent them. The focus of the 2022 Stop for Safety sessions was on mental health and wellbeing, in addition to any other risks teams had identified. Teams were able to access tools and activities through the Victorian Public Sector Commission's Wellbeing toolkit to assist in proactively focusing on mental health and wellbeing.

Safety interactions have been carried out by the VFA Executive for over four years now. These informal meetings are carried out quarterly and afford VFA staff the chance to raise OHS issues directly with Executives. All senior people managers were trained in how to conduct a safety interaction during the year.

Safety performance

Table 9: The VFA's safety performance over three years.

Measure	Indicator	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Incidents	No. of incidents ^{^*}	70	74	48
	Rate per 100 FTE	43.42	40.97	26.68
	No. of incidents requiring first aid/or further medical treatment	28	22	14
Hazards	No. of hazards	10	40*	10**
	Rate per 100 FTE	6.20	22.14	5.56
Claims	No. of Standard Claims	5	4	1
	Rate per 100 FTE	3.10	2.2	1.80
	No. of lost time claims	1	3	1
	Rate per 100 FTE	0.62	1.66	1.80
	No. of claims exceeding 13 weeks	1	3	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0.62	1.65	0
Return to work	Percentage of claims with RTW plans <30 days	67%	100%	100%
Executive Safety Interactions	No. of sites visited to conduct safety interactions	23	24	23

[^] There were no fatalities.

* All areas of the VFA undertook critical risk assessments, which together with education on the importance of hazard reporting, led to a higher number of hazards being identified and reported. Monitoring and review of identified critical risk controls has continued in 2021-22 to ensure compliance and robust management of risks

** For a period of time during 2021-22, 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 10. 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		1				
\$180 000 – \$199 999		1				
\$200 000 – \$219 999		3	1			
\$220 000 – \$239 999	2		1			
\$240 000 – \$259 999						
\$260 000 – \$279 999	1					
\$280 000 – \$299 999						
\$300 000 – \$319 999						
Total	3	5	2	0	0	0

Comparative workforce data

Table 11 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 (2021) of the previous reporting period (2021).

There was a slight increase in overall headcount resulting from a higher use of casuals at end of June 2022.

Table 11. Details of employment levels in June 2020 and 2021

		June 2022								
		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	73	61.77	39	19	48.73	11	10.40	4	2.64
	Men	127	122.27	107	1	106.80	14	14.00	5	1.47
	Self-described	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	200	184.04	146	20	155.53	25	24.40	9	4.11
	Age									
	<30	21	20.15	10	0	10.00	8	8.00	3	2.15
	30-39	42	37.45	32	0	29.00	9	8.40	1	0.05
	40-49	56	52.91	42	6	46.13	5	5.00	3	1.78
	50-59	47	43.86	40	4	41.80	2	2.00	1	0.06
60+	34	29.67	22	10	28.60	1	1.00	1	0.07	
TOTAL:	200	184.04	146	20	155.53	25	24.4	9	4.11	
Classification data	VPS1-6 grades									
	VPS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	VPS 2	14	10.06	3	3	4.80	3	3.00	5	2.26
	VPS 3	49	41.25	34	6	34.80	5	4.60	4	1.85
	VPS 4	55	53.93	42	4	44.93	9	9.00	0	0
	VPS 5	48	45.40	40	5	42.40	3	3.00	0	0
	VPS 6	24	23.40	21	2	22.60	1	0.80	0	0
	Senior Employees									
	STS 7	5	5.00	4	0	4.00	1	1.00	0	0
	PS	2	2.00	2	0	2.00	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	3	3.00	0	0	0	3	3.00	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Employees	200	184.04	146	20	155.53	25	24.40	9	4.11
		June 2021								
		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	63.57	38	20	51.93	9	9	4	2.64
	Men	127	123.96	110	3	111.7	11	11.00	3	1.26
	Self-described	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	198	187.53	148	23	163.63	20	20.00	7	3.90
	Age									
	<30	20	20.00	15	0	15.00	5	5.00	0	0
	30-39	39	38.40	33	1	33.80	4	4.00	1	0.60
	40-49	58	54.97	41	6	45.33	7	7.00	4	2.64
	50-59	50	46.76	40	6	43.70	3	3.00	1	0.06
60+	31	27.40	19	10	25.80	1	1.00	1	0.60	
TOTAL:	198	187.53	148	23	163.63	20	20.00	7	3.90	
Classification data	VPS1-6 grades									
	VPS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	VPS 2	16	13.26	5	4	7.60	3	3.00	4	2.66
	VPS 3	70	66.17	60	6	63.93	1	1.00	3	1.24
	VPS 4	49	48.20	39	4	42.20	6	6.00	0	0
	VPS 5	35	33.20	26	5	29.20	4	4.00	0	0
	VPS 6	19	17.70	14	4	16.70	1	1.00	0	0
	Senior Employees									
	STS 7	4	4.00	2	0	2.00	2	2.00	0	0
	PS	2	2.00	2	0	2.00	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	3	3.00	0	0	0	3	3.00	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Employees	198	187.53	148	23	163.63	20	20.00	7	3.90

Note: FTE numbers rounded to two decimal places

Workforce inclusion policy

The VFA *Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Framework 2019 – 2024* 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 implemented the Whole of Victorian Government *Flexible Work Policy*, with non-field employees being able to work under a hybrid system combining working at VFA sites with working from home. The hybrid system has enabled further changes needed at times with the evolving COVID-19 situation and advice.

2. Inclusion

Aboriginal Victorians

The VFA is implementing its Arcadia employment strategy to achieve 50 percent indigenous employment at the new hatchery. The VFA worked with GoTafe to improve training in fish husbandry and aquaculture techniques, and is also providing on the job training to new staff. The VFA has engaged one local indigenous person to work at the hatchery, with further recruitment and training to be undertaken.

In line with the VFA's *Aboriginal Engagement Strategy* to support staff to have a greater awareness of aboriginal culture, Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training, facilitated by the Koorie Heritage Trust was provided for all staff in groups of up to 20 people.

Disability Action Plan

The implementation of the *VFA Accessibility Action Plan* commenced in June 2021.

There has been a continuous focus on raising awareness through the access to information. The People and Culture team has sought advice on inclusive position descriptions and advertisements and is currently undertaking a review of the recruitment policy and procedure with a diverse lens.

Networking has continued through both the VFA's Education, Events and Fishing and Boating Infrastructure teams.

LGBTIQ+

VFA staff had an opportunity to provide feedback on the vision and proposed reform directions for the creation of Victoria's first whole-of-government lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) strategy in 2021.

In February 2022, the Victorian Government released LGBTIQ+ strategy: *Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022 - 32*, which provides the vision and plan to drive equality and inclusion for Victoria's diverse LGBTIQ+ communities within all aspects of government work over the next decade.

The VFA is working with our DoT Diversity and Inclusion colleagues in the implementation of the strategy.

Multicultural Diversity

The VFA has commenced the development of a *Multicultural Diversity Action Plan 2022 - 2025* with the aim to continue to create, develop and support a culturally diverse and inclusive workplace that reflects the sectors and communities we work with and to continue our collaboration and engagement with people from culturally diverse communities.

3. Gender Equality

The VFA's Gender Equality Action Plan 2021 - 2025

In late June 2022, the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector advised that they had completed a review of the VFA's *Gender Equality Action Plan 2021 - 2025* (GEAP) for compliance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020* (the Act). The VFA's GEAP met the requirements for compliance under the Act and has been given a status of 'Final' by the Commission.

The VFA is very proud of its first GEAP and that every member of staff contributed to shaping it. Consultation with our staff, leadership team, Board Directors and employee representatives took place over nine months. Our resulting collective vision for gender equality is to have a workplace with:

- A greater mix of diversity to achieve a better dynamic, greater innovation, a broader perspective, and to reflect the Victorian community;
- Equal opportunities for all in recruitment, flexibility, career development and training, equitable pay and conditions; and
- More women in leadership positions (including executives) with clear pathways to leadership.

Our GEAP will help us achieve this and in the process achieve greater innovation, a broader perspective, and better reflect the Victorian community.

Drawing on the results of the gender baseline audit and GEAP consultation with all our stakeholders, four focus areas were identified to guide the implementation of gender equality actions over the next four years.

Attraction
and
Recruitment

Career
Development
and Support

Education
and
Awareness

Communication:
Internal and
External

We are committed to making reasonable and material progress for each of the seven gender equality indicators defined in the Act to achieve our vision.

4. Life Stage

The VFA continues to use flexible working arrangements and other supports to assist staff who have parental and caring responsibilities 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 2022:

- Table 12 discloses the total number of executives for the VFA, broken down by gender; and
- Table 13 provides a reconciliation of executive numbers presented between the Report of Operations and Note 9.9 'Remuneration of executives' in the financial statements.

Table 12: Total number of executives for the VFA, broken down into gender

Class	All			Women			Men			Self-described		
	# 2022	# 2021	Var.	# 2022	# 2021	Var.	# 2022	# 2021	Var.	# 2021	# 2020	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	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	n	n	n
Total	3	3	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	n	n	n

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 13: Reconciliation of executive numbers

	2022	2021	2020
Executives (financial statement Note 9.9)	2	2	2
Accountable Officer (CEO)	1	1	1
Less Separations	0	0	1
Total executive numbers at 30 June	3	3	2



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.

The VFA did not enter into any contracts that were considered Local Jobs First contracts during 2021-22.

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 2021-22, the VFA expended \$255,600 on a reportable government advertising campaign, as detailed in the table below.

Table 14: 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	\$24,538	\$6,999	\$0	\$217,200	\$6,863	\$255,600

Consultancy expenditure

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

In 2021-22, there were seven consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2020-21 in relation to these consultancies is \$259,555 (excluding GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined in Table 15.

Details of consultancies under \$10,000

The VFA did not enter into any consultancies under \$10,000 during 2021-22.

Table 15: Details of consultancies valued at \$10 000 or greater incurred in 2021-22

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (excl GST)	Expenditure 2020-21 (excl GST)	Future expenditure (excl GST)
Vidler Stephen Michael T/A Fishtech Services	Native Fish Production specialist advice	169,214	96,495	72,719
Crowe Horwath (Aust) Pty Ltd	Internal Audit Services	204,811	31,256	173,555
Marsden Jacob Associates	Economic Impact Assessment of the Golden Tag Program	45,220	45,220	0
Rock Agency	Development of website for the 2023 World Recreational Fishing Conference	41,818	36,208	5,610
Marsden Jacob Associates	Economic Assessment of benefits of the 2023 World Recreational Fishing Conference	19,595	19,595	0
The Trustee for The Colquhoun Consulting Trust	Development of a draft Victorian Aquaculture Strategy	31,560	15,780	15,780
Land To Sea Consulting Pty Ltd	Preparation of FRDC Final Project Report	15,000	15,000	0

Information and communication technology expenditure

Details of information and communication technology (ICT) expenditure

For the 2021-22 reporting period, the VFA had a total ICT expenditure of \$1,895,230, with the details shown in Table 17 below.

Table 16: VFA operational ICT expenditure in 2021-22

All operational ICT expenditure	ICT expenditure related to projects to create or enhance ICT capabilities			
	Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure	Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure	Operational expenditure	Capital expenditure
\$1,895,230		\$407,170	\$1,488,060	\$0

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 extending or enhancing the VFA's current ICT capabilities. 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 2022.

The VFA did not enter into any contracts of a value greater than \$10 million in value during 2021-22.

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 FOI 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.

From 1 September 2017, the FOI Act was amended to reduce the Freedom of Information (FOI) processing time for requests received from 45 to 30 days. However, when external consultation is required under ss29, 29A, 31, 31A, 33, 34 or 35, the processing time automatically reverts to 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

Freedom of Information requests can be lodged online at www.foi.vic.gov.au. An application fee of \$29.60 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 VFA's FOI Unit, as detailed in s17 of the FOI Act.

When making a FOI request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, and clearly identify what types of material/documents are being sought.

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

Freedom of Information Unit
 Manager, Corporate Operations
 Victorian Fisheries Authority
 Level 19, 1 Spring St
 Melbourne VIC 3000

FOI Statistics for the 2020-21 period

During the 2020-21 period the VFA received six FOI applications. These applications were from members of Parliament and members of the general public.

The VFA made six FOI decisions during the period; all decisions were made within the statutory 30-day time period.

In all six decisions, access was granted in full to all documents.

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

www.foi.vic.gov.au

Compliance with the *Building Act 1993*

The VFA has a presence in 25 locations across Victoria. Operations in those locations are delivered from a total of 35 office and depot sites. The VFA has management responsibility for 10 office sites and five 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 2021-22, the VFA completed two projects greater than \$50,000, which were:

- The construction of a new fish hatchery at Arcadia, and
- The refurbishment and fit out of the VFA Offices at Queenscliff.

Competitive Neutral Policy

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest. Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. The *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 efficiency in the provision of service.

The VFA, where applicable, continues to comply with the requirements of the National Competition Policy and the requirements of policy statement, *Competitive Neutrality Policy Victoria*.

Compliance with the *Protected 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 Transport Secretary;
- The Department of Transport's 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

Further information

As an Authority within the portfolio of the Department of Transport, 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 17: Disclosures under the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012*

	2020-21 number	2021-22 number
The number of disclosures made by an individual to the VFA and notified to the Independent Broad-based Anticorruption Commission	0	0
Assessible disclosures	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* was approved by the VFA Board on 10 June 2021. The VFA's Accessibility Action Plan 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 implement recreational fishing structures that cater for people of all abilities. A further three fish cleaning tables, based on inclusive design principles have been installed at Avalon, Hastings, and Patterson River. Work has continued for stage two of major upgrades to boating facilities at Hastings, Queenscliff, Rhyll, Point Richards and Mordialloc.

A map of accessible locations for boating facilities and recreational fishing locations across Victoria and design guidelines for boat ramp facilities that include universal design principles are available on the website.

Reducing barriers to persons with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment

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

Promoting inclusion and participation in the community

The VFA, in conjunction with Fishcare Victoria, has continued working to reduce barriers hindering people with disabilities from being able to enjoy the experience of recreationally fishing through the *Fishing for All* program.

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.

The VFA has engaged and sought feedback from the public to identify locations to expand our accessible network through the release of the *Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy 2021 - 2030*. Accessible boating means that people of all abilities and ages can safely enjoy time out on the water and includes planning universally designed pontoons and access davits. Significant engagement and design work to install accessible boating facilities at boat ramps located in Hastings, Lakes Entrance and Port Welshpool was undertaken during the year. The VFA has worked closely with asset managers and local stakeholders in the design of these accessible facilities, to ensure that they provide safe and unobstructed access to members of the community with disability and mobility impairments and meet universal design standards.

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

The VFA engages with disability groups as they hold the knowledge and expertise about what is best for their communities. Informed by the engagement we:

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

Our Education, Events and Fishing and Boating Infrastructure staff are supported in their work with people with disability in the community.

Social Procurement Framework

In 2018, the Victorian Government launched the Social Procurement Framework (SPF) to enable government buyers and suppliers to deliver social, economic and environmental outcomes that benefit the Victorian community, economy and environment.

Social procurement occurs *when organisations use their buying power to generate social value above and beyond the value of the goods, services or construction being procured* (Victoria's Social Procurement Framework, pg. 11).

The SPF applies to the procurement of all goods, services and construction undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Government, and is defined by ten objectives:

1. Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people
2. Opportunities for Victorians with disability
3. Women's equality and safety
4. Opportunities for disadvantaged Victorians
5. Supporting safe and fair workplaces
6. Sustainable Victorian social enterprise and Aboriginal business sectors
7. Sustainable Victorian regions
8. Environmentally sustainable outputs
9. Environmentally sustainable business practices
10. Implementation of the climate change policy objectives

In 2021-22, the VFA undertook several activities to support the SPF:

- Continued to install recreational fishing structures that cater for all abilities, including fish cleaning tables at Avalon, Hastings and Patterson River designed using inclusive design principles.
- Worked to implement the VFA's Accessibility Plan 2021 – 2025.
- Continued the fish farming workshops through GO TAFE Shepparton to support the creation of employment opportunities for Indigenous people at the Northern Native Fish Hatchery in Arcadia.
- Continued the Fishing for All program to increase the participation of people with disabilities in recreational fishing.

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 2021-22, there were no personal searches conducted.

Compliance with DataVic Access Policy

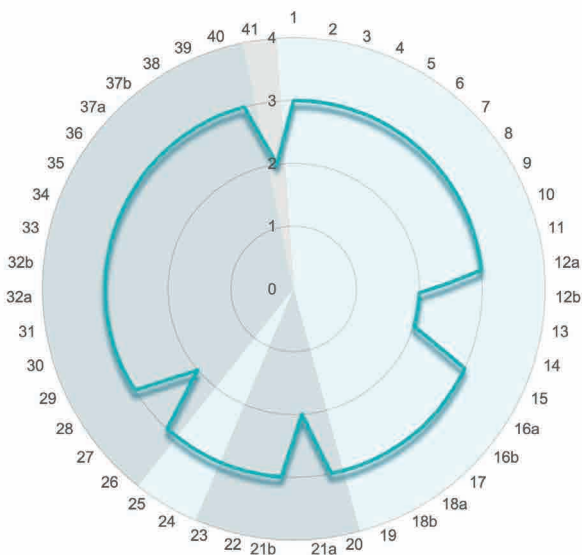
The VFA did not have any datasets requiring submission to the DataVic website in 2021-22.

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 (<https://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/infrastructure-investment/asset-management-accountability-framework>).

The VFA’s target maturity rating is ‘competence’ (Level 3 on Figure 4 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 4: VFA AMAF maturity assessment



Legend

Status	Scale
Not Applicable	N/A
Innocence	0
Awareness	1
Developing	2
Competence	3
Optimising	4
Unassessed	U/A

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 is in place 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 improving 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, Gail Owen, 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.



Gail Owen
VFA Board Chair
Victorian Fisheries Authority

24 October 2022



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Declaration in the financial statements

The attached financial statements for the VFA have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance 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 2022 and financial position of the VFA at 30 June 2022.

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 24 October 2022.



Gail Owen
VFA Board Chair
Victorian Fisheries Authority

24 October 2022



Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

24 October 2022



Simon Leverett
Chief Financial Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

24 October 2022

VAGO audit report



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the Victorian Fisheries Authority

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Victorian Fisheries Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2022 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • declaration in the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2022 and their 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.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<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</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>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards 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>

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
21 November 2022



Sanchu Chummar

as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Comprehensive operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2022

	Note	(\$ thousand)	
		2022	2021
Income from transactions			
Grants	2.2.1	78,457	57,319
Sale of services	2.2.2	304	198
Total income from transactions		78,761	57,517
Expenses from transactions			
Grant disbursements	3.1	(29,151)	(9,934)
Employee benefits	3.2.1	(25,376)	(22,636)
Depreciation and amortisation	5.1.1	(3,094)	(2,696)
Interest expense	7.1.2	(75)	(96)
Laboratory and livestock expenses	3.3	(4,719)	(4,703)
Contracts and services	3.4	(5,361)	(4,260)
Computer services and equipment	3.5	(1,895)	(2,245)
Capital asset charge	3.6	-	(2,400)
Other operating expenses	3.7	(11,490)	(9,721)
Total expenses from transactions		(81,161)	(58,690)
Net result from transactions		(2,400)	(1,173)
Other economic flows included in net result			
Revaluation of land and buildings	9.1	1,304	(1,378)
Net gain / (loss) on non-financial assets	9.1	796	422
Other gains / (losses) from other economic flows	9.1	(1,379)	(63)
Total other economic flows included in net result		721	(1,020)
Net result		(1,680)	(2,193)
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	9.2	-	294
Total other economic flows – other comprehensive income		-	294
Comprehensive result		(1,680)	(1,898)

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

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2022

	Note	(\$ thousand)	
		2022	2021
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	7.3	1,294	1,050
Receivables	6.1	17,731	8,788
Total financial assets		19,025	9,838
Non-financial assets			
Land	5.1	6,840	5,434
Buildings	5.1	25,655	24,650
Plant and equipment	5.1	5,389	4,480
Intangible assets	5.2	218	218
Other non-financial assets	6.3	1,100	828
Total non-financial assets		39,202	35,609
Total assets		58,227	45,447
Liabilities			
Payables	6.2	13,789	3,940
Borrowings - lease liabilities	7.1	3,730	3,267
Employee-related provisions	3.2.2	9,000	7,276
Total liabilities		26,519	14,483
Net assets		31,708	30,964
Equity			
Contributed Capital		39,741	37,316
Reserves		294	294
Accumulated surplus / (deficit)		(8,327)	(6,647)
Total Equity		31,708	30,964

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 2022

	Note	(\$ thousand)			Total
		Contributed capital	Accumulated deficit	Physical asset revaluation surplus	
Balance at 1 July 2020		33,653	(4,454)	-	29,199
Contributed capital	7.3.2	3,664	-	-	3,664
Net result for the year			(2,193)	-	(2,193)
Land and building revaluation increments	9.2			294	294
Balance at 30 June 2021		37,316	(6,647)	294	30,964
Balance at 1 July 2021		37,316	(6,647)	294	30,964
Contributed capital	7.3.2	2,424			2,424
Net result for the year			(1,680)		(1,680)
Balance at 30 June 2022		39,741	(8,327)	294	31,708

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 2022

	Note	(\$ thousand)	
		2022	2021
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from Victorian Government		70,808	55,886
GST recovered from / (paid) to ATO		3,199	2,112
Sale of services		569	62
Total receipts		74,576	58,060
Payments			
Payments of grants and other transfers		(33,609)	(9,934)
Payments to suppliers and employees		(36,636)	(41,572)
GST on payments		(3,500)	(2,193)
Capital asset charge payments		-	(2,400)
Interest and other costs of finance paid		(75)	(96)
Total payments		(73,820)	(56,195)
Net cash flows from operating activities	7.3.1	756	1,865
Cash flows from investing activities			
(Purchase) / sale of non-financial assets		(2,625)	(3,480)
Receipts from / (payments) for plant and equipment		386	302
Net cash flows from / (used in) investing activities		(2,239)	(3,178)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Contributed capital from Victorian Government	7.3.2	2,714	3,372
Repayment of finance leases		(986)	(1,010)
Net cash flows from / (used in) financing activities		1,728	2,362
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		245	1,050
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		1,050	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	7.3.3	1,294	1,050

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 (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 and is part of Victoria's integrated transport portfolio led by the Department of Transport (DoT).

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

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.

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.

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,
- 5.1 Property, Plant and Equipment and;
- 8.3 Fair value determination.

These financial statements cover the VFA 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 2021-22 Financial Statements may not add due to rounding.

Better Boating Victoria

Better Boating Victoria (BBV) transferred to the VFA on 1 February 2021. The full-year impact of BBV significantly increased total expenditure and total revenue for the VFA in 2021-22. The impact of BBV on the VFA's 2021-22 financial report has been significant for two primary reasons:

1. 2021-22 was the first full financial year that BBV has been part of the VFA; and
2. There was a significant increase in the delivery and associated cost of boating infrastructure improvements during 2021-22.

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 DoT and DoT is an administrator for the Recreational Fishing Licences Trust disburses funds to 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. 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.

The Better Boating Victoria (BBV) division of DoT was transferred to the VFA on 1 February 2021. The 2021-22 statutory accounts reflects the first full year of BBV in the VFA, and as a result the level of funding and expenditure has increased since 2020-21, reflecting the government's expenditure on improving boating facilities across Victoria.

Structure

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

2.2 Income from transactions

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

	Note	(\$ thousand)	
		2022	2021
Income from transactions			
Grants	2.2.1	78,457	57,319
Sale of services	2.2.2	304	198
Total income from transactions		78,761	57,517

Income is recognised to the extent it is probable the economic benefits will flow to the VFA and the income can be reliably measured.

2.2 Income from transactions

2.2.1 Grants	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Income recognised as income from non-for-profit entities		
General purpose	77,820	57,319
Other specific purpose	637	-
Total grants	78,457	57,319

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.

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.

Total grants increase by around \$21.1 million in 2021-22 primarily as a result of additional funding provided by Government for investments in boating infrastructure across Victoria.

2.2.2 Sale of services

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Sale of services	304	198
Total services	304	198

The sale of goods and services included in the table above are transactions that the VFA has determined to be classified as revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with AASB 15.

Performance obligations and revenue recognition policies

Revenue is measured based on the consideration specified in the contract with the customer. The VFA recognises revenue when it transfers control of a good or service to the customer, i.e. when, or as, the performance obligations for the sale of goods, biological assets and services to the customer are satisfied.

Customers obtain control of the supplies and consumables at a point in time when the goods are delivered to and have been accepted at their premises.

Revenue from the sale of goods are recognised when the goods are delivered and have been accepted by the customer at their premises

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised at a point in time when the performance obligation is satisfied when the service is completed; and over time when the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the services as it is provided.

Customers are invoiced and revenue is recognised when the goods are delivered and accepted by customers. In rare circumstance where there may be a change in the scope of services provided, the customer will be provided with a new contract for the additional services to be rendered and revenue is recognised consistent with accounting policy above.

Consideration received in advance of recognising the associated revenue from the customer is recorded as a contract liability (Note 6.2). Where the performance obligation is satisfied but not yet billed, a contract asset is recorded (Note 6.2).

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 5.1.1 and 7.1.2 provide additional information regarding depreciation, amortisation and interest expense.

The cost of delivering services in 2021-22 incorporates the first full year of Better Boating Victoria, which transferred to the VFA on 1 February 2021.

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

3.2.3 Superannuation contributions

3.3 Laboratory and livestock expenses

3.4 Contracts and services

3.5 Computer services and equipment

3.6 Capital asset charge

3.7 Other operating expenses

3.1 Grant disbursements

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Grants to government agencies		
Local government	20,987	4,041
Commonwealth government	250	317
Other government agencies	670	2,151
Total grants to government agencies	21,907	6,509
Grants to external organisations and individuals		
Other non-government agencies	7,244	3,425
Total grants to external organisations and individuals	7,244	3,425
Total grants and other transfers	29,151	9,934

Grant disbursements are contributions of the VFA's resources to another party for specific or general 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. Grant disbursements in 2021-22 increased compared to 2020-21 primarily due to the increased investment in boating infrastructure across Victoria.

3.2 Employee benefits

3.2.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Salaries, wages and other on-costs	20,639	19,120
Annual leave and long service leave expenses	2,657	1,664
Defined contribution superannuation expense	2,080	1,851
Total employee benefits	25,376	22,636

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.

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)	
	2022	2021
Current provisions		
Annual leave		
- Unconditional and expected to wholly settle within 12 months	1,281	1,112
- Unconditional and expected to wholly settle after 12 months	1,139	915
Long service leave		
- Unconditional and expected to wholly settle within 12 months	816	562
- Unconditional and expected to wholly settle after 12 months	4,057	2,793
Provisions for on-costs		
- Unconditional and expected to wholly settle within 12 months	335	268
- Unconditional and expected to wholly settle after 12 months	805	597
Total current provisions	8,434	6,247
Non-current provisions		
Employee benefits	495	892
Provisions for on-costs	72	137
Total non-current provisions	567	1,029
Total provisions for employee benefits	9,001	7,276

3.2 Employee benefits (continued)

3.2.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet (continued)

Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Opening balance	1,002	929
Additions due to transfer in	-	25
Additional provisions recognised	1,121	707
Additions due to acquisitions	34	54
Reductions arising from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefits	77	39
Unwind of discount and effect of changes in the discount rate	(962)	(746)
Reduction transfer out	(60)	(6)
Closing balance	1,212	1,002
Current	1,140	865
Non current	72	137

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.

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 an unconditional 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.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the net result.

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.

3.2.3 Superannuation contributions

Fund	(\$ thousand)	
	Paid contribution for the year	
	2022	2021
Defined contribution plans		
Aware Super ^(a)	1,179	1,037
New Super ^(b)	188	222
Australian Super ^(b)	194	146
Host Plus Super ^(b)	128	68
Other ^(b)	391	378
Total	2,080	1,851

^(a) Formerly VicSuper

^(b) These defined contribution plans were grouped as part of the *other* category in the 2020-21 VFA Annual Report

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.

The VFA does not recognise any defined benefit liability in respect of the plans because the entity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees; its only obligation is to pay superannuation contributions as they fall due. The Department of Treasury and Finance recognises and discloses the State's defined benefit liabilities in its financial statements as an administered liability.

3.3 Laboratory and livestock expenses

Laboratory and livestock expenses	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
	4,719	4,703

The VFA's laboratory and livestock expenses predominately relates to fish stock purchases, fish production supplies and commercial licence buy backs.

3.4 Contracts and services

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Contracts and services	5,361	4,260

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. The increase from 2020-21 to 2021-22 primarily relates to planning and development of boating infrastructure across Victoria.

3.5 Computer services and equipment

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Computer services and equipment	1,895	2,245

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

3.6 Capital asset charge

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Capital Asset Charge	-	2,400

The Capital Assets Charge (CAC) policy was discontinued from the 2021-22 Budget and the CAC has been removed from all output costs in the *2021-22 Budget Paper No. 3 Service Delivery*.

3.7 Other operating expenses

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Supplies and services		
Service level agreement - shared services provided by DOT and DJPR	1,467	1,472
Occupancy	3,981	4,232
Communications	595	355
Travel and accommodation	329	263
Vehicle, equipment and marine vessel expenses	1,317	1,290
Other administrative expenses	3,801	2,109
Total supplies and services	11,490	9,721
Total other operating expenses	11,490	9,721

Other operating expenses include **supplies and services** costs which are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. The increase from 2020-21 to 2021-22 primarily relates to the development and implementation of an artificial reef in Port Phillip Bay.

4. Restructuring of administrative arrangements

On 1 February 2021, the Better Boating Victoria Division of DoT transferred to the VFA. Better Boating Victoria is responsible for delivering significant improvements to boating facilities across Victoria, including administering the Government's \$47 million Better Boating initiative.

Five staff members transferred from DoT to the VFA on 1 February 2021. As a result, the employee provisions for these five employees transferred to the VFA, along with an equivalent receivable with DoT.

There were no physical assets transferred. Boating facilities such as boat ramps and car parks are owned by non-Victorian government entities such as local governments and committees of management.

There were no administrative restructures during 2021-22.

	Note	(\$ thousand)	
		2022	2021
Assets			
Land	5.1	-	-
Buildings	5.1	-	-
Leasehold Improvements	5.1	-	-
Receivables - DOT	6.1	-	184
Total assets		-	184
Liabilities			
Provision for employee benefits (current)	3.2.2	-	177
Provision for employee benefits (non-current)	3.2.2	-	7
Total liabilities		-	184
Net assets transferred to the Victorian Fisheries Authority		-	-

5. Key assets to support output delivery

Introduction

The VFA controls land, buildings, plant and equipment that 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

5.1 Property, plant and equipment

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

5.1.1 Depreciation and amortisation

5.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount

5.2 Intangible assets

5.1 Property, plant and equipment

	(\$ thousand)					
	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Land and Buildings						
Land at fair value	6,840	5,434	-	-	6,840	5,434
Buildings and structures at fair value	27,247	23,790	(4,257)	(2,677)	22,990	21,113
Right-of-use Buildings	2,459	1,542	(1,324)	(880)	1,135	662
Buildings and structures - construction in progress	1,062	2,411	-	-	1,062	2,411
Building leasehold	583	516	(115)	(52)	468	464
Total Land and Buildings	38,191	33,693	(5,696)	(3,609)	32,495	30,084
Plant and equipment at fair value	5,117	3,804	(2,267)	(1,882)	2,850	1,923
Motor vehicles under finance lease	3,859	3,506	(1,321)	(949)	2,539	2,557
Total Plant and Equipment	8,976	7,311	(3,588)	(2,831)	5,389	4,480
Net carrying amount	47,167	41,003	(9,284)	(6,439)	37,884	34,564

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.

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 8.3 – Fair value determination, for additional information on fair value determination of property, plant and equipment.

5.1(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 2022	Accumulated depreciation 2022	Net carrying amount 2022	Gross carrying amount 2021	Accumulated depreciation 2021	Net carrying amount 2021
Right-of-use Buildings	2,459	(1,324)	1,135	1,542	(880)	662
Motor vehicles	3,859	(1,321)	2,539	3,506	(949)	2,557
Total	6,318	(2,645)	3,674	5,048	(1,829)	3,219

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.

5.1.1 Depreciation and amortisation

Charge for the period

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Buildings and structures at fair value	1,580	1,182
Right-of-use Buildings	444	471
Building leasehold	64	43
Plant and equipment	448	448
Motor vehicles under finance lease	558	551
Total	3,094	2,696

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	
	2022	2021
Land	Indefinite	Indefinite
Buildings and structures at fair value	1 to 30	1 to 30
Right-of-use Buildings	Term of lease	Term of lease
Building leasehold	1 to 5	1 to 5
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 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.

5.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount

	(\$ thousand)															
	Land		Buildings and structures at fair value		Right-of-use Buildings		Buildings and structures - construction in progress		Buildings Leasehold		Property, Plant & Equipment		Motor vehicles under finance lease		Total	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Opening balance	5,434	6,812	21,113	20,564	662	872	2,411	241	464	261	1,924	2,146	2,556	2,611	34,564	33,507
Recognition of right-of-use assets in application of AASB16	-	-	-	-	917	261	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	917	261
Fair value of assets received free of charge or for nominal considerations	-	-	340	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	340
Additions	-	-	41	1,098	-	-	2,379	2,405	57	244	793	232	1,044	1,069	4,314	5,049
Additions by recognition	-	-	-	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	-	70	105
Transfer in/out of assets under construction	102	-	3,075	236	-	-	(3,728)	(236)	11	-	542	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	1,304	(1,378)	-	294	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1,304	(1,082)
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	(1,580)	(1,182)	(444)	(471)	-	-	(64)	(43)	(448)	(448)	(558)	(551)	(3,094)	(2,696)
Disposals / write-offs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(31)	(7)	(503)	(574)	(533)	(580)
Net carrying amount	6,840	5,434	22,990	21,113	1,135	662	1,062	2,411	468	464	2,850	1,923	2,539	2,557	37,884	34,564

5.2 Intangible assets

	(\$ thousand)			
	Water Access Rights		Total	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Opening balance	218	-	218	-
Additions at cost	-	218	-	218
Net book value at end of financial year	218	218	218	218

Water Access Rights

The VFA purchased water access rights during 2020-21 for use at the Arcadia Hatchery, which is currently under construction. These access rights provide the VFA consume 200 megalitres of water each year. 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.

6. Other assets and liabilities

Introduction

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

Structure

6.1 Receivables

6.2 Payables

6.3 Other non-financial assets

6.1 Receivables

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

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Contractual		
Receivables – government (DOT)	12,970	8,305
Receivables – government other	2,618	-
Receivables – external	76	195
Total contractual receivables	15,664	8,500
Statutory		
GST input tax credit recoverable from the ATO	2,067	288
Total statutory receivables	2,067	288
Total receivables	17,731	8,788

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 have increased in 2021-22 primarily due to accrued grant revenue from DoT for boating infrastructure grants that became payable towards the end of 2021-22 but were not yet paid, and expected payments from other government departments for capital improvement projects at the Arcadia and Snobs Creek fish hatcheries.

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.

6.2 Payables

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

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Contractual		
Supplies and services	6,314	1,287
Deferred capital grant revenue	3,805	1,500
Other payables	3,640	1,404
Total contractual payables	13,759	4,190
Statutory		
Other payables	30	(251)
Total statutory payables	30	(251)
Total payables	13,789	3,940

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. Contractual payables have increased in 2021-22 primarily due to accrued grant expenses for boating infrastructure grants that became payable towards the end of 2021-22 but were not yet paid, and the deferred recognition of revenue associated with capital improvement projects at the Arcadia and Snobs Creek fish hatcheries.

Deferred capital grant revenue: Grant consideration was received from the Victorian State Government to support the construction for a new fish hatchery at Arcadia, and expansion of the hatchery at Snobs Creek. Grant revenue is recognised progressively as the asset is constructed, since this is the time when the VFA satisfies its obligations under the transfer by controlling the asset as and when it is constructed. The progressive percentage costs incurred is used to recognise income because this most closely reflects the progress to completion as costs are incurred as the works are done. (see note 2.1). As a result, the VFA has deferred recognition of a portion of the grant consideration as a liability for the outstanding obligations.

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.

Maturity analysis of contractual payables ^(a)

	(\$ thousand)					
	Carrying amount	Nominal amount	Maturity dates			
			Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3-12 months	1-5 years
2022						
Supplies and services	6,314	6,314	6,314	-	-	-
Deferred capital grant revenue	3,805	3,805	-	-	3,805	-
Other payables	3,640	3,640	3,640	-	-	-
Total	13,759	13,759	9,954	-	3,805	-
2021						
Supplies and services	1,287	1,287	1,287	-	-	-
Deferred capital grant revenue	1,500	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Other payables	1,404	1,404	1,404	-	-	-
Total	4,190	4,190	2,690	-	1,500	-

^(a) Maturity analysis is presented using the contractual and discounted cash flow.

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

6.3 Other non-financial assets

Current other non-financial assets

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Prepayments	1,100	828
Total current other non-financial assets	1,100	828

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.

7. 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 7.1 and 7.2 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

Structure

7.1 Borrowings

7.1.1 Maturity analysis of borrowings

7.1.2 Interest expense

7.2 Leases

7.2.1 Finance lease liabilities

7.3 Cash flow information and balances

7.3.1 Reconciliation of net result for the period to cash flow from operating activities

7.3.2 Contributed capital from Victorian Government

7.3.3 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year

7.4 Commitments for expenditure

7.1 Borrowings

Total borrowings	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Current borrowings		
Finance lease liabilities	1,660	1,679
Total current borrowings	1,660	1,679
Non-current borrowings		
Finance lease liabilities	2,070	1,588
Total non-current borrowings	2,070	1,588
Total borrowings	3,730	3,267

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.

7.1.1 Maturity analysis of borrowings ^(a)

	(\$ thousand)						
	Carrying amount	Nominal amount	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3-12 months	1-5 years	Over 5 years
2021-22							
Lease liabilities	3,730	3,818	632	328	1,054	1,804	-
Total	3,730	3,818	632	328	1,054	1,804	-
2020-21							
Lease liabilities	3,267	3,326	335	156	1,204	1,631	-
Total	3,267	3,326	335	156	1,204	1,631	-

^(a) Maturity analysis is presented using the contractual and discounted cash flow.

7.1.2 Interest expense

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Interest on finance leases	75	96
Total interest expense	75	96

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.

7.2 Leases

7.2.1 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.

7.2.1 (a) Right-of-use Assets

Right-of-use assets are presented in note 5.1(a).

7.2.1 (b) Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

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

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Interest on finance leases	75	96
Amortisation of right-of-use leases	1,002	1,023
Total	1,077	1,119

7.2.1 (c) Amounts recognised in the Statement of Cashflows

The following amounts are recognised in the Statement of Cashflows for the year ending 30 June 2022 relating to leases:

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Interest and other costs of finance paid	75	96
Repayment of finance leases	986	1,010
Total	1,061	1,106

For any new contracts entered into, the VFA considers whether a contract is, 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.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

Recognition and measurement of leases as a lessee

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 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.

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.

7.3 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)	
	2022	2021
Total cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet	1,294	1,050
Balance as per cash flow statement	1,294	1,050

7.3.1 Reconciliation of net result for the period to cash flow from operating activities

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Net result for the period	(1,680)	(2,193)
Non-cash movements		
Depreciation and amortisation of non-financial assets	3,094	2,696
Revaluation of long service leave liability	1,379	106
Revaluation and recognition of land and buildings	(1,304)	1,273
Assets received free of charge	(340)	-
Gain on sale of assets	(386)	(317)
Movements in assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in receivables	(8,987)	(1,664)
(Increase) / decrease in other non-financial assets	(272)	78
Increase / (decrease) in payables	8,908	1,491
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	344	395
Net cash flows from / (used in) operating activities	756	1,865

7.3.2 Contributed capital from Victorian Government

Contributed capital was provided in 2021-22 to fund the majority of capital investment and the repayment of finance leases.

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Contributed capital for the period (Statement of Changes in Equity)	2,424	3,664
Movements in assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in receivables	290	(292)
Contributed capital (Cash Flow Statement)	2,714	3,372

7.3.3 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year

From 1 February 2021 the VFA commenced operation of a bank account. The VFA uses this bank account to make payments and receive receipts for accounts payable and accounts receivable transactions respectively. Grant funding from DoT is deposited into the VFA bank account on a period basis.

The cash balance represents the timing difference between grant deposits and the payments for the VFA's goods and services. Prior to 1 February 2021, the VFA was entirely funded on a reimbursement basis through a receivable from DoT.

7.4 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)			Total
	Less than 1 year	Between 1 and 5 years	Over 5 years	
Nominal amounts: 2022				
Other operating commitments	5,032	1,996	76	7,104
Capital expenditure commitments	427	-	-	427
Grant commitments (a)	1,808	224	-	2,032
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	7,268	2,219	76	9,563
less GST recoverable	(594)	(198)	(7)	(799)
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)	6,674	2,021	69	8,764
Nominal amounts: 2021				
Other operating commitments	9,518	1,806	-	11,323
Capital expenditure commitments	190	-	-	190
Grant commitments (a)	2,104	52	-	2,156
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	11,812	1,858	-	13,670
less GST recoverable	(959)	(165)	-	(1,124)
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)	10,853	1,692	-	12,546

^(a) Grant commitments related to commitments by the VFA funded by the Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) trust.

8. 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

8.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

8.1.1 Categorisation

8.1.2 Net holding gain / (loss) on financial instruments by category

8.1.3 Financial risk management objectives and policies

8.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

8.3 Fair value determination

8.3.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

8.3.2 Non-financial physical assets

8.1 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 are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, 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.

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 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; or
- 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.

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 an other economic flow in the estimated consolidated comprehensive operating statement.

Reclassification of financial instruments: Subsequent to initial recognition reclassification of financial liabilities is not permitted. 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 and agencies 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.

8.1.1 Financial instruments: categorisation

	(\$ thousand)			Total
	Cash and deposits	Financial assets at amortised cost (AC)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost (AC)	
2022				
Contractual financial assets				
Cash and deposits	1,294	-	-	1,294
Receivables ^(a)	-	-	-	-
Other receivables	-	15,664	-	15,664
Total contractual financial assets	1,294	15,664	-	16,958
Contractual financial liabilities				
Payables ^(a)				
Supplies and services	-	-	6,314	6,314
Deferred capital grant revenue	-	-	3,805	3,805
Other payables	-	-	3,640	3,640
Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Finance lease liabilities	-	-	3,730	3,730
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	-	17,489	17,489

	(\$ thousand)			Total
	Cash and deposits	Financial assets at amortised cost (AC)	Financial liabilities at amortised cost (AC)	
2021				
Contractual financial assets				
Cash and deposits	1,050	-	-	1,050
Receivables ^(a)	-	-	-	-
Other receivables	-	8,500	-	8,500
Total contractual financial assets	1,050	8,500	-	9,550
Contractual financial liabilities				
Payables ^(a)				
Supplies and services	-	-	1,287	1,287
Deferred capital grant revenue	-	-	1,500	1,500
Other payables	-	-	1,404	1,404
Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Finance lease liabilities	-	-	3,267	3,267
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	-	7,457	7,457

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

8.1.2 Financial instruments: Net holding gain / (loss) on financial instruments by category

(\$ thousand)

2022 Interest income / (expense)

Contractual financial liabilities

Financial liabilities at amortised cost 75

Total contractual financial liabilities 75

(\$ thousand)

2021 Interest income / (expense)

Contractual financial liabilities

Financial liabilities at amortised cost 96

Total contractual financial liabilities 96

The net holding gain or loss on receivables is calculated by taking the movement in the fair value of the asset, the interest income, minus any impairment recognised in the net result.

8.1.3 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The VFA's activities expose it primarily to the financial risk of changes in interest rates. The VFA does not enter into derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to interest rate.

The VFA does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

- The VFA's principal financial instruments comprise:
- cash and deposits;
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables);
- payables (excluding statutory payables); and
- borrowings.

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement, and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, with respect to each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument above are disclosed in Note 8.3 – Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities, to the financial statements.

The main purpose in holding financial instruments is to prudentially manage the VFA's financial risks within government policy parameters.

The VFA uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed.

The carrying amounts of the VFA's contractual financial assets and financial liabilities by category are disclosed in the Note 8.1.1 – Financial instruments: categorisation.

Financial instruments: credit risk

Credit risk arises from the contractual financial assets of the VFA, which comprise non-statutory receivables. The VFA's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of the counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the VFA. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the VFA's financial assets is minimal because its main debtor is DOT. For debtors other than government, it is the VFA's policy to obtain sufficient collateral or credit enhancements where appropriate.

Provision for impairment for contractual financial assets is recognised when there is objective evidence that the VFA will not be able to collect a receivable. Objective evidence includes financial difficulties of the debtor, default payments, debts which are more than 60 days overdue, and changes in debtor credit ratings.

Except as otherwise detailed in the following table, the carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the VFA's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral obtained.

There has been no material change to the VFA's credit risk profile in 2021-22.

Credit quality of financial assets

	(\$ thousand)		
	Financial institution (A credit rating)	Victorian Government (AA credit rating)	Total
2021-22			
Financial assets with loss allowance measured at 12-month expected credit loss			
Cash and deposits (not assessed for impairment due to materiality)	1,294	-	1,294
Financial assets with loss allowance measured at lifetime expected credit loss:			
Receivables (with no impairment loss recognised) ^(a)	-	15,664	15,664
Total contractual financial assets	1,294	15,664	16,958
2020-21			
Financial assets with loss allowance measured at 12-month expected credit loss			
Cash and deposits (not assessed for impairment due to materiality)	1,050	-	1,050
Financial assets with loss allowance measured at lifetime expected credit loss:			
Receivables (with no impairment loss recognised) ^(a)	-	8,500	8,500
Total contractual financial assets	1,050	8,500	9,550

^(a) The carrying amounts disclosed exclude statutory receivables (e.g. amounts owing from the State of Victoria and GST recoverable).

Impairment of financial assets under AASB 9 – applicable from 1 July 2019

The VFA has been recording the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments, replacing AASB 139's incurred loss approach with AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss approach. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment include the VFA's contractual receivables, statutory receivables and its investment in debt instruments.

Equity instruments are not subject to impairment under AASB 9. Other financial assets mandatorily measured or designated at fair value through net result are not subject to impairment assessment under AASB 9. While cash and cash equivalents are also subject to the impairment requirements of AASB 9, the identified impairment loss was immaterial.

Contractual receivables at amortised cost

The 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. The VFA has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due and select the expected credit loss rate based on the VFA's past history, existing market conditions, as well as forward-looking estimates at the end of the financial year.

On this basis, the VFA determines the opening loss allowance on initial application date of AASB 9 and the closing loss allowance at end of the financial year as follows:

	(\$ thousand)					Total
	Current	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3-12 months	1-5 years	
30 June 2022						
Expected loss rate	0%	-	-	-	-	-
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	15,664	-	-	-	-	15,664
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 June 2021						
Expected loss rate	0%	-	-	-	-	-
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	8,500	-	-	-	-	8,500
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-

Financial instruments: liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the VFA would be unable to meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The VFA operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, making payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

The VFA's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed in the balance sheet.

The VFA's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on current assessment of risk. Maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed in the balance sheet.

Financial instruments: market risk

Interest rate risk

The VFA has no interest-bearing assets. The VFA's only interest-bearing liabilities relate to finance lease liabilities. Interest rates in relation to the VFA's finance lease liabilities are fixed. The 2021-22 weighted average interest rate for right of use assets was 2.45 per cent, and 1.98 percent for motor vehicles (3.87 & 2.55 in 2020-21).

8.2 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. (2020-21: 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 (\$2.1 million in 2020-21 for the compulsory buyout of a number of fishing licences in Port Phillip Bay).

8.3 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.

This section is divided between disclosures in connection with fair value determination for financial instruments (refer to Note 8.3.1 – Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities) and non-financial physical assets (refer to Note 8.3.2 – Fair value determination: non-financial physical assets).

8.3.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

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 2021-22 reporting period.

8.3.2 Fair value determination: non-financial physical assets

2022	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2022	Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 ^(a)	Level 2 ^(a)	Level 3 ^(a)
Land at fair value				
Specialised land	2,473	-	-	2,473
Non-specialised land	4,367	-	4,367	-
Total of land at fair value	6,840	-	4,367	2,473
Buildings at fair value				
Specialised buildings	22,990	-	-	22,990
Non-specialised buildings	-	-	-	-
Total buildings at fair value	22,990	-	-	22,990
Leasehold Improvements				
Non-specialised leasehold improvements	468	-	468	-
Total Buildings leasehold at fair value	468	-	468	-
Plant, equipment, vehicles at fair value				
Leased vehicles ^(b)	2,539	-	-	2,539
Plant and equipment	2,850	-	2,850	-
Total plant, equipment, vehicles at fair value	5,389	-	2,850	2,539
Intangible assets				
Water Access Rights	218	-	218	-
Total Intangible Assets at fair value	218	-	218	-

^(a) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy.

^(b) Vehicles are categorised to level 3 assets as current replacement cost (not market value) is used in estimating fair value.

8.3.2 Fair value determination: non-financial physical assets (continued)

2021	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2021	Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 ^(a)	Level 2 ^(a)	Level 3 ^(a)
Land at fair value				
Specialised land	2,054	-	-	2,054
Non-specialised land	3,380	-	3,380	-
Total of land at fair value	5,434	-	3,380	2,054
Buildings at fair value				
Specialised buildings	21,113	-	-	21,113
Non-specialised buildings	-	-	-	-
Total buildings at fair value	21,113	-	-	21,113
Leasehold Improvements				
Non-specialised leasehold improvements	464	-	464	-
Total Buildings leasehold at fair value	464	-	464	-
Plant, equipment, vehicles at fair value				
Leased vehicles ^(b)	2,557	-	-	2,557
Plant and equipment	1,923	-	1,923	-
Total plant, equipment, vehicles at fair value	4,480	-	1,923	2,557
Intangible assets				
Water Access Rights	218	-	218	-
Total Intangible Assets at fair value	218	-	218	-

^(a) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy.

^(b) Vehicles are categorised to level 3 assets as current replacement cost (not market value) is used in estimating fair value.

Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

	(\$ thousand)		
	Specialised land	Specialised buildings	Leased vehicles
2022			
Opening balance	2,054	21,113	2,557
Net purchases (sales)	-	41	539
Additions recognised	-	340	-
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	3,075	-
Depreciation	-	(1,580)	(558)
Sub-total	2,054	22,990	2,539
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows – other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Revaluation of land and buildings	419	-	-
Sub-total	419	-	-
Closing Balance	2,473	22,990	2,539

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 2022. 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.

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

Asset class	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
Specialised buildings	Depreciated replacement cost	Recognised building cost indicators
Leased Vehicles	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit: Useful life of vehicle

9. Other disclosures

Introduction

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

Structure

- 9.1 Other economic flows included in net result
- 9.2 Reserves
- 9.3 Responsible persons
- 9.4 Remuneration of executives
- 9.5 Related parties
- 9.6 Remuneration of auditors
- 9.7 Subsequent events
- 9.8 Other changes in accounting policies
- 9.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective
- 9.10 Glossary of technical terms
- 9.11 Style conventions

9.1 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
- reclassified amounts relating to available-for-sale financial instruments from the reserves to net result due to a disposal or derecognition of the financial instrument. This does not include reclassification between equity accounts due to machinery of government changes or 'other transfers' of assets.

Other economic flows included in net result

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Revaluation of land and buildings		
Revaluation of land and buildings	1,304	(1,378)
Total revaluation of land and buildings	1,304	(1,378)
Net gain / (loss) on non-financial assets		
Revaluation of land	386	302
Gain / (loss) on disposal of leased vehicles	-	15
Gain / (loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	70	105
Additions by recognition	340	-
Total Net gain / (loss) on non-financial assets	796	422
Other gain / (loss) from other economic flows		
Gain / (loss) arising from revaluation of long service leave liability (a)	(1,379)	(63)
Total other gain / (loss) on other economic flows	(1,379)	(63)
Total other economic flows included in net result	721	(1,020)

^(a) Revaluation gain / (loss) due to changes in bond rates.

9.2 Reserves

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Physical asset revaluation surplus		
Balance at beginning of financial year	294	-
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	294
Balance at end of financial year	294	294

9.3 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 Fishing and Boating	The Hon. Melissa Horne MLA	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Board Chairperson	Ms Gail Owen	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Deputy Chairperson	Dr Bernadette Northeast	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Director	Ms Sophie Harris	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Director	Mr Chris Rose	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Director	Mr Graeme Dear	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Director	Mr David Shirer	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Director	Ms Joelle Tabone	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Director	Mr Yorick Piper	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Travis Dowling	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Remuneration of Board Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and Directors ^(a)

Band Range	Total number	
	2022	2021
\$10,000 - \$19,000	6	6
\$20,000 - \$29,000	-	-
\$30,000 - \$39,000	1	1
\$240,000 - \$249,999	-	1
\$280,000 - \$289,000	1	-
Total number	8	8
Total remuneration	\$391,076	\$363,055

^(a) Table incorporates seven Board Directors and one Accountable Officer. Only seven of the eight Board Directors are remunerated.

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 \$280,000 - \$289,000 (2021: \$240,000 - \$249,000).

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: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/publications/register-of-interests

9.4 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	
	2022	2021
Short-term employee benefits	436	422
Post-employment benefits	44	32
Other long-term benefits	-	-
Total remuneration	480	454
Total number of executives	2	2
Total annualised employee equivalent (AEE) ^(a)	2.0	2.0

^(a) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

9.5 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);
- Portfolio 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 DoT and made payments to other government entities in the 2020-21 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	2022 (\$ thousand)		2021 (\$ thousand)	
		Revenue	Receivables	Revenue	Receivables
Department of Transport	Provision of grant revenue; receivable in relation to restructuring of administrative arrangements as well as grant revenue	76,147	12,970	57,319	8,305
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	Grants primarily for Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery Visitors Centre	-	1,536	1,500	-
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Capital grants for Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery	-	937	-	-
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Better Boating Victoria Accessible Mordialloc Pontoon	340	-	-	-
Melbourne Water Corporation	Grant - Fish Habitat structures	151	-	-	-
Corangamite Catch Management Authority	Grant - Dunecare project	99	-	-	-
Department of Treasury and Finance	Vicfleet proceeds on disposal	76	76	-	-
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	Grant - Toolondo Reservoir - Fish (carp) biomass reduction activities	11	-	-	-
Department of Primary Industries and Regions	World Recreational Fisheries Conference 2023	10	-	-	-

Expenditure and Payables transactions over \$10 000 with government-related entities					
Related party	Nature of transaction	2022 (\$ thousand)		2021 (\$ thousand)	
		Expenditure	Payables	Expenditure	Payable
Department of Transport	Provision of Corporate Services as per Service Level Agreement	2,090	1,984	1,230	-
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	Capital grants for Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery Visitors Centre	320	2,700	-	-
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Capital grants for Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery	-	937	-	-
Department of Treasury and Finance	Vicfleet Lease payments	900	1,297	105	-
Goulburn Murray Water	Grant payments	736	-	56	-
Parks Victoria	Grant payments	691	-	-	-
Grampians -Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation	Grant payments	601	-	-	-
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	Provision of Corporate Services as per Service Level Agreement; accommodation charges	498	-	609	390
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Provision of Corporate Services as per Service Level Agreement and Grants payments	467	-	654	-
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office	Legal advice	263	-	110	-
East Gippsland CMA	Grant payments	100	-	90	-
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	Grant payments	69	-	-	-
Goulburn Broken CMA	Grant payments	62	-	-	-
North Central CMA	Grant payments	62	-	42	-
Victorian Auditor-General Office	Audit of VFA & RFL Financial Statements	58	-	76	-
Victorian Managed Insurance Authority	Public and product liability, professional indemnity, and motor vehicle insurance	55	-	146	-
Vicroads	Vehicle Registration	38	-	41	--
North East CMA	Grant payments	31	-	51	-
Corrections Victoria	Construction and delivery of fish habitat structures to Avondale Heights	20	-	-	-

Expenditure and Payables transactions over \$10 000 with government-related entities (continued)					
Related party	Nature of transaction	2022 (\$ thousand)		2021 (\$ thousand)	
		Expenditure	Payables	Expenditure	Payable
Cenitex	Network connections services for various VFA sites	16	-	-	-
Barwon Region Water Authority	Provision of Potable Water to Victorian Fisheries Authority Queenscliff Site	11	-	-	-
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Grant payments	10	-	40	-
Bushfire Recovery Victoria	Secondment reimbursement	-43	-	-	-
Games Management Authority	Shared Intelligence Officer reimbursement	-275	-	23	-
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Fishing products	-	-	40	-

CMA = Catchment Management Authority.

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 9.2 – 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 Department of Parliamentary Services' Financial Report.

Compensation of key management personnel	(\$ thousand)	
	Total remuneration	
	2022	2021
Short-term employee benefits	251	335
Post-employment benefits	140	28
Other long-term benefits	-	-
Total compensation ^(a)	391	363

^(a) (a) Note that the VFA's KMPs are excluded from the disclosure of remuneration of executive officers (Note 9.3 – 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 \$100,000 (\$90,000 in 2020-21) to East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA), a related entity of Director Mr Graeme Dear. In addition, another \$100,000 was awarded to East Gippsland CMA and is payable in the 2021-22 financial year. The terms and conditions of the grant were equivalent to those that prevail in an arm's length transaction under the State's procurement process. This amount is included within the Commitments note 7.4.

The VFA also made payments of \$274,725.63 to the Game Management Authority (GMA) for a Shared Intelligence Officer. The GMA is a related entity of Director, Mr Christopher Rose.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the VFA, with the exception of the above, there were no other 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.

9.6 Remuneration of auditors^(a)

	(\$ thousand)	
	2022	2021
Victorian Auditor-General's Office		
Audit of the VFA financial statements	58	66
Total remuneration of auditors	58	66

Note:

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

9.7 Subsequent events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since 30 June 2022 that significantly affect the information disclosed in the 2021-22 financial statements.

9.8 Other changes in accounting policies

Contributions by owners

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 Contributions, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital) 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 authority. 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.

9.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2021-22 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to the Model Financial Statements. The State is reviewing its existing policies and assessing the potential implications of these accounting standards which include:

- AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current

This Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. It initially applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022 with earlier application permitted however the AASB has recently issued AASB 2020-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Deferral of Effective Date to defer the application by one year to periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. The Department will not early adopt the Standard.

The VFA in the process of analysing the impacts of these Standards. However, it is not anticipated to have a material impact.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods, but are considered to have *limited impact on the VFA's reporting*.

- AASB 17 Insurance Contracts.
- AASB 2020-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements 2018-2020 and Other Amendments.
- AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definitions of Accounting Estimates.
- AASB 2021-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction.
- AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards.
- AASB 2021-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 and Editorial Corrections.
- AASB 2018-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of Material

9.10 Glossary of technical terms

The following is a summary of the major technical items used in this report.

Amortisation

Amortisation is the expense which results from the consumption, extraction or use over time of a non-produced physical or intangible asset. This expense is classified as an 'other economic flow'.

Borrowings

Borrowings refers to interest bearing liabilities mainly from public borrowings raised through the TCV, finance leases and other interest bearing arrangements. Borrowings also include non-interest bearing advances from government that are acquired for policy purposes.

Capital Asset charge

A charge levied on the written-down value of controlled non-current physical assets in an authority's balance sheet which aims to: attribute to agency outputs the opportunity cost of capital used in service delivery; and provide incentives to authority to identified and dispose or surplus assets in a timely manner.

Commitments

Commitments include those operating, capital and other outsourcing commitments arising from non-cancellable contractual or statutory sources.

Current grants

Amounts payable or receivable for current purposes for which no economic benefits of equal value are receivable or payable in return.

Depreciation

Depreciation is an expense that arises from the consumption through wear or time of a produced physical asset. This expense is classified as a 'transaction' and so reduces the 'net result from transaction'.

Effective interest method

The effective interest method is used to calculate the amortised cost of a financial asset or liability and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Financial asset

A financial asset is any asset that is:

- a. cash;
- b. an equity instrument of another entity;
- c. a contractual right or statutory right:
 - to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity; or
 - to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity; or
- d. a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:
 - a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to receive a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
 - a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.

Financial instrument

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial assets or liabilities that are not contractual (such as statutory receivables or payables that arise as a result of statutory requirements imposed by governments) are not financial instruments.

Financial liability

A financial liability is any liability that is:

- a. a contractual or statutory obligation:
 - to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity; or
 - to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity; or
- b. a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:
 - a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to deliver a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
 - a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments. For this purpose, the entity's own equity instruments do not include instruments that are themselves contracts for the future receipt or delivery of the entity's own equity instruments.

Grants and other transfers

Transactions in which one unit provides goods, services, assets (or extinguishes a liability) or labour to another unit without receiving approximately equal value in return. Grants can either be operating or capital in nature.

While grants to governments may result in the provision of some goods or services to the transferor, they do not give the transferor a claim to receive directly benefits of approximately equal value. For this reason, grants are referred to by the AASB as involuntary transfers and are termed non-reciprocal transfers. Receipt and sacrifice of approximately equal value may occur, but only by coincidence. For example, governments are not obliged to provide commensurate benefits in the form of goods or services to particular taxpayers in return for their taxes.

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 regarding their use.

Leases

Leases are rights conveyed in a contract, or part of a contract, the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Net acquisition of non-financial assets (from transactions)

Purchases (and other acquisitions) of non-financial assets less sales (or disposals) of non-financial assets less depreciation plus changes in inventories and other movements in non-financial assets. Includes only those increases or decreases in non-financial assets resulting from transactions and therefore excludes write offs, impairment write-downs and revaluations.

Net result

Net result is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of income, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those that are classified as 'other economic flows – other comprehensive income'.

Net result from transactions / net operating balance

Net result from transactions or net operating balance is a key fiscal aggregate and is income from transactions minus expenses from transactions. It is a summary measure of the ongoing sustainability of operations. It excludes gains and losses resulting from changes in price levels and other changes in the volume of assets. It is the component of the change in net worth that is due to transactions and can be attributed directly to government policies.

Net worth

Assets less liabilities, which is an economic measure of wealth.

Non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are all assets that are not 'financial assets'. It includes land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment, investment properties, cultural and heritage assets, and intangible assets.

Other economic flows – other comprehensive income

Other economic flows – other comprehensive income comprises items (including reclassification adjustments) that are not recognised in net result as required or permitted by other Australian Accounting Standards.

The components of other economic flows – other comprehensive income include:

- changes in physical asset revaluation surplus;
- share of net movement in revaluation surplus of associates and joint ventures; and
- gains and losses on remeasuring available-for-sale financial assets.

Supplies and services

Supplies and services generally represent cost of goods sold and the day-to-day running costs, including maintenance costs incurred in the normal operations of the VFA.

Transactions

Transactions are those economic flows that are considered to arise as a result of policy decisions, usually an interaction between two entities by mutual agreement. They also include flows within an entity such as depreciation, where the owner is simultaneously acting as the owner of the depreciating asset and as the consumer of the service provided by the asset. Taxation is regarded as mutually agreed interactions between the government and taxpayers. Transactions can be in kind (e.g. assets provided / given free of charge or for nominal consideration) or where the final consideration is cash. In simple terms, transactions arise from the policy decisions of the government.

9.11 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
201x	year period
201x-1x	year period

The financial statements and notes are presented based on the illustration for a statutory authority in the 2020-21 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
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FRD 22H	Key initiatives and projects	5-48
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FRD 8D	Performance against output performance measures	50-63
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Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
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FRD 11A	Disclosure of Ex gratia Expenses	n/a
FRD 13	Disclosure of Parliamentary Appropriations	n/a
FRD 21C	Disclosures of Responsible Persons, Executive Officers and other Personnel (Contractors with Significant Management Responsibilities) in the Financial Report	137
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	<i>Building Act 1993</i>	86
	<i>Protected Disclosure Act 2012</i>	86-87
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	<i>Disability Act 2006</i>	90
	<i>Local Jobs Act 2003</i>	82
	<i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>	iv, 94,98, 104
	<i>Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016</i>	2, 70, 103
	<i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>	35,36, 66, 92, 103

2. Image acknowledgements

The images used in this Annual Report have been supplied by various groups and individuals. Their contribution is gratefully acknowledged. (Where relevant, descriptions are from left to right and clockwise)

Page	Description	Photographer/source
Cover	Diver on hookah entering the water	VFA stock image
	VFA patrol boat on waters off Queenscliff	Michelle Couling Photography
	Child fishing from a jetty at Lake Purrumbete	VFA stock image
	Recreational boat out in Port Phillip Bay	VFA stock image
iii	VFA Board Chair, Gail Owen	VFA stock image
	VFA CEO, Travis Dowling	VFA stock image
1	The VFA's Snobs Creek Hatchery entrance and fish transport trailer	VFA stock image
5	Using the VFA's abalone measure to ensure catch is of legal size	VFA stock image
6	Aerial image of Corner Inlet, Victoria	Peter Bellingham
	Fresh fish from the Corner Inlet Fishery	Mark Roper, Delicious Magazine
	Corner Inlet commercial fisher on boat	Luke Anedda
7	Freshly caught scallops	VFA stock image
	Fresh octopus for sale at the market	VFA stock image
8	Plentiful catch of eels in a commercial trap	VFA stock image
	VFA marker on commercial eel trap	VFA stock image
	Eel species caught in the commercial Eel Fishery	VFA stock image
	Fresh fish on display at the market	VFA stock image
9	Peter Lillie with a haul of his mussels	VFA stock image
	Juvenile abalone in hatchery	VFA stock image
	Black and green lip abalone in hatchery	VFA stock image
10	Giant Spider Crab in Victorian waters	VFA stock image
	Responsible Fishing of Giant Spider Crab – brochure in English	VFA stock image
	Responsible Fishing of Giant Spider Crab – brochure in Chinese	VFA stock image
11	VFA Snobs Creek staff collecting data on Macquarie perch	VFA stock image
	Macquarie perch brood stock in the Snobs Creek Hatchery	VFA stock image
	Tree planting day with Landcare	VFA stock image
	Stocking Macquarie perch fingerlings with Landcare	VFA stock image
12	Volunteers helping to relocate native fish affected by irrigation changes	VFA stock image
	VFA Fisheries Officer helping to acclimate a relocated Murray cod	VFA stock image
	VFA Fisheries Officer and Snobs Creek staff member relocating perch	VFA stock image
	VFA fish transport trailer	VFA stock image
13	Recreational fisher with Murray cod catch	VFA stock image
	Caring for Murray cod	VFA stock image
	Preparing Murray cod fingerlings for stocking	VFA stock image
	The VFA's new fish stocking truck	VFA stock image
	Safely stocking trout from the stocking truck	VFA stock image

Page	Description	Photographer/source
14	VFA staff and recreational fishers collecting estuary perch	VFA stock image
	Estuary perch eggs under the microscope	VFA stock image
	VFA staff and recreational fishers collecting estuary perch	VFA stock image
	VFA Fisheries Officers, scientists and hatchery staff preparing to stock estuary perch	VFA stock image
15	Our next generation recreational fisher landing a catch	VFA stock image
	VFA Snobs Creek staff member stocking trout into Lake Hume	VFA stock image
16	Aerial view of the ponds at the Native Fish Hatchery, Arcadia	VFA stock image
	VFA staff releasing golden perch larvae into the grow-out ponds at Arcadia	VFA stock image
	VFA staff preparing to place a Murray cod in the brood stock ponds, Acarida	VFA stock image
	Golden perch fingerlings ready for stocking	VFA stock image
	VFA staff collecting fingerlings for stocking	VFA stock image
17	VFA staff stocking fish with the new stocking truck	VFA stock image
	VFA staff stocking 'stinker' trout	VFA stock image
	VFA staff and volunteers stocking fish in Lake Hume	VFA stock image
	Minister Horne stocking fish into Lauriston Reservoir	VFA stock image
18	Reef structures ready for loading onto the transport ship	VFA stock image
	Reef structure being deployed into Pt Nepean	VFA stock image
	Underwater image of reef structure on the sea floor	VFA stock image
19	Fish cleaning table – Hastings	VFA stock image
	Fish cleaning table – Point Lonsdale	VFA stock image
	Fish cleaning tables – Patterson River	VFA stock image
	Fish cleaning tables – Avalon	VFA stock image
20	Underwater image of a snapper	Streamline Media
	A school of snapper on Wilson's Reef	Streamline Media
	VFA scientist collecting data on snapper	VFA stock image
21	Fishing for All – Bendigo event flyer	VFA stock image
	VFA Ambassador Bachar Houli at Fishing for All – Williamstown	VFA stock image
	Fishing for All – Shepparton event flyer	VFA stock image
	Vic Fish Kids fishing clinic	VFA stock image
22	Improving vehicle and boat access facilities	David Anderson Photography
	Commencing rock groyne construction at Point Richards	VFA stock image
24	Rock groyne construction at Point Richards	VFA stock image
	Completed boat ramp at Queenscliff	VFA stock image
25	All photos: Future locations to be repaired and upgraded: Avalon, Kirk Point, Lang Lang, Cowes, and Howqua	VFA stock images
26	All photos: Funding secured for repairs and upgrades at boat ramps in Apollo Bay, Warrnambool and Cape Conran	VFA stock images
27	Women in Recreational Fishing (WIRF) Network 'Come and try Fishing' day in Wyndham	VFA stock image

Page	Description	Photographer/source
28	VFA staff at the entrance to the Hooked on Portland event	VFA stock image
	VFA Ambassador, Lee Rayner, and WIRF Leader at Hooked on Portland	VFA stock image
	Kids Zone at the Hooked on Lakes Entrance event	VFA stock image
	VFA Fisheries Officers lending a helping hand at Hooked on Lakes Entrance	VFA stock image
29	VFA staff and a friend at the Snobs Creek Open Day	VFA stock image
	VFA staff giving guests the tour of the Snobs Creek Hatchery	VFA stock image
	'How to fish' clinics at the Snobs Creek Open Day	VFA stock image
30	Vic Fish Kids fishing clinic	VFA stock image
	VFA discussion panel at the Murray Codference	VFA stock image
31	All images: screenshots of the VFA's GoFishVic app and website in different languages	VFA stock images
32	Pontoons and ramp upgrades	VFA stock images
33	New all-abilities jetty at Pritchards Landing, Glenelg River	VFA stock images
	Solar light improvements at St Helens, Geelong	VFA stock images
	Red gum stumps ready to be used for habitat restoration in the Gippsland Lakes	VFA stock images
34	Destination berth program	VFA stock images
35	Dredging works at Tootgarook	VFA stock image
	Upgrading the boat ramp at Bullen Merri	VFA stock image
36	Marlo Jetty low landing upcoming upgrade	VFA stock image
	Ocean Grove boat ramp jetty refurbishment	VFA stock image
37	VFA community event	VFA stock images
38	Rock safety education – Fishers wearing lifejackets	David Hannah Photography
	VFA Water Safety community event, Dandenong	VFA stock image
	VFA Safe Diving animation	VFA stock image
	Rock safety education – Fisher wearing lifejackets	David Hannah Photography
39	Recreational fishing boat entering the bay through navigation aids	VFA stock image
40	Both images: VFA holiday program at the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre	VFA stock images
41	VFA and WADA divers monitoring abalone for AVG	VFA stock image
	Underwater image of diver inspecting abalone for AVG	VFA stock image
	Southern bluespotted flathead in Port Phillip Bay	VFA stock image
42	School of snapper over a reef	Streamline Media
43	Top images: repurposing tree stumps after storm damage	VFA stock images
	Bottom images: removing carp from Toolondo Reservoir	VFA stock images
44	Top images: stocking brown trout fry	VFA stock images
	Recreational fisher with Murray cod	VFA stock image
45	VFA Fisheries Officer checking commercial rock lobster catch	VFA stock image
	VFA Fisheries patrol vehicle	VFA stock image
	VFA Fisheries Officer on a jet ski	VFA stock image

Page	Description	Photographer/source
46	Confiscated diving gear and abalone Illegal catch and confiscated vehicles	VFA stock image VFA stock image
47	VFA Fisheries Officers out on the river	VFA stock image
48	VFA and Maritime Safety Victoria working together VFA and Maritime Safety Victoria officers chatting to a recreational fisher VFA Fisheries Officer out on the river	VFA stock image VFA stock image VFA stock image
49	Stocking Macquarie perch with Landcare	VFA stock image
67	Pontoon over the Bay	David Anderson Photography
75	VFA Fisheries Officer helping to stock adult rainbow trout at Cartcarrong Lake	VFA stock image
81	Family fishing out in Port Phillip Bay	David Anderson Photography
93	Upgraded boat ramps and pontoons	VFA stock image
xx	Recreational fishing boat going out into the Port Phillip Bay	David Anderson Photography

