

Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account 2017/18

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



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Cover image: Reef base consisting of recycled shells and limestone rubble being deployed as part of the Port Phillip Bay Shellfish Reef Restoration Project.

Contents

Foreword	2
<i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>	3
Enforcement & Education	4
Snobs Creek Fish Production and Stocking	6
<i>Target One Million</i>	7
Financial Report	8
Notes to the Financial Report	10
Note 1 - Statement of Accounting Policies	10
Note 2 - Payments to Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects during 2017/18	11
Note 3 - Proposal to fund 2017/18's approved Recreational Fishing Grant Program projects, and other items in 2018/19 and beyond as applicable	15
Note 4 - Cash assets	23
Statutory Certification	24
Independent Audit Report from Auditor-General	25

Foreword

A report to each House of Parliament on the disbursement of Recreational Fishing Licence Revenue from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account, 2017/18

Every year the Victorian Government provides revenue from the sale of recreational fishing licences to projects that improve recreational fishing, through the Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account.

As the Minister for Agriculture, I recognise the significant contribution that recreational fishing continues to make to the State's economy and the social wellbeing it brings to those who participate in this wonderful outdoor activity.

The Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group has continued to provide me with valuable advice on how RFL funds should be disbursed through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program over the past 12 months.

Following the Working Group's recommendations, I recently announced that \$1,154,022 will be allocated to 16 new projects through the 2017/18 round of the Large Grants Program. These projects include a Maribyrnong River native fish revival project, increasing fish habitat in the Snowy, Mitta Mitta, Rubicon, Merri and Goulburn Rivers, installing fishing pontoons at Nhill Lake and the Wimmera River, monitoring the southern bluefin tuna and striped trumpeter recreational fisheries in western Victorian waters, and the development of a Fishcare 'Get Hooked' app for use in schools.

A further \$359,055 was allocated via the Commissioning Grants Program; \$219,055 to produce a range of popular education and communication products that assist recreational anglers to understand and comply with fishing regulations, and \$140,000 for the monitoring of key marine and estuarine fisheries.

The Small Grants Program has again been very popular with over \$95,000 being provided for 40 projects during 2017/18. This program has now funded over 340 projects worth more than \$890,000 since its inception in 2010.

I am also very pleased to advise that during 2017/18 an additional \$2,331,282 was allocated towards the implementation of the Target One Million plan, which included the state-wide fish stocking program, the Better Fishing Facilities Program, the Defibrillator for Fishing Clubs Program, and expanding the Angler Diary Program.

During 2017/18, Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account funds were again committed or disbursed to fund:

- Increased fish stocking into lakes and rivers;
- The deployment of thirteen Fisheries Officers to boost enforcement and education;
- VRFish, to provide advice to the Victorian Government about the broad range of recreational fishers' views on the management of the State's fisheries resources;
- The Victorian Fishcare program, which delivers responsible fishing education and events to the community;
- Projects approved through previous rounds of the Recreational Fishing Grants Program for access and facilities, education, information and training, recreational fisheries research and fish habitat improvement.
- Recreational Fishing Licence commissions paid to sellers; and
- The costs incurred in the administration of the Recreational Fishing Licence, Grants Program and the Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group.

Fishing licence revenue and the Target One Million plan have continued to deliver significant investment into recreational fishing to grow participation and help regional businesses that rely on the associated tourism. I'm sure that recreational fishers cross the state will agree that increased fish stocking, better facilities, more enforcement and more education are fundamental to sustainable fishing in the future and it is pleasing to know that the next generation of anglers will enjoy these benefits.

I have pleasure in providing to each House of Parliament this report on the receipts and disbursements from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account for 2017/18.



Hon Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Agriculture
18 September 2018

Fisheries Act 1995

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

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

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

The 2017/18 financial year is the seventeenth full year of the RFL Trust Account's operation.

The Victorian Auditor-General has audited the receipts received, and disbursements made from the RFL Trust Account in 2017/18.

Enforcement & Education

In 2017/18, Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,026,644 to the Victorian Fisheries Authority's compliance budget.

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

Fisheries Officers have continued to have good contact with recreational fishers in the field during the last year. Table 1 summarises yearly totals for contacts in the recreational fishing sector. The work is divided into categories based on species, locations or other activities. Over 56,300 total contacts were made with recreational fishers by Fisheries Officers during the reporting period. Compliance contacts with Fisheries Officers totalled over 46,000, with Table 1 showing the number of offenders, verbal warnings, official warnings, infringement notices, and briefs of evidence for the year.

In addition, Fisheries Officers attended 21 angling club meetings, conducted 3,922 advisory contacts with recreational fishers, made 49 contacts during fish stocking events and 618 contacts during recreational fishing related shows, forums and clinics.

Table 1.

Recreational	Officer contacts with recreational fishers	Number of offenders	Verbal warnings issued	Official warnings issued	Infringement notices issued	Briefs of evidence compiled
Abalone (intertidal zone)	221	125	95	58	85	2
Abalone (on land)	1530	323	113	171	223	11
Abalone (on water)	184	23	7	5	12	0
Bass yabbies	66	0	0	0	0	0
Bay & Inlet - other (on land)	5819	380	166	143	112	1
Bay & Inlet - other (on water)	2154	122	47	31	47	2
Bay & Inlet - Port Phillip (on land)	13515	786	271	338	211	3
Bay & Inlet - Port Phillip (on water)	1273	76	26	21	25	0
Bay & Inlet - Western Port (on land)	2646	159	64	44	47	0
Bay & Inlet - Western Port (on water)	936	77	32	26	19	0
Freshwater (on land)	7189	737	265	237	264	2
Freshwater (on water)	2810	173	56	54	74	0
Intertidal other	171	66	45	20	10	0
Intertidal pipis	1862	261	145	75	52	1
Intertidal Port Phillip	270	180	97	89	98	3
Intertidal red shore crab	257	40	18	8	22	0
Marine Safety (on land)	1735	329	262	62	92	1
Marine Safety (on water)	1997	418	328	69	98	0
Murray cod	1706	63	36	15	23	0
Ocean (on land)	3749	263	97	98	78	1
Ocean (on water)	553	23	8	6	9	0
Rock lobster (on land)	273	21	7	12	5	0
Rock lobster (on water)	216	17	5	4	9	0
Scallops (on land)	10	1	0	0	1	0
Scallops (on water)	16	1	0	0	1	0
Spiny Cray	537	28	21	20	15	3
Totals	51,695	4,692	2,211	1,606	1,632	30

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

- contact with recreational fishers in the field;
- attending angling club meetings;
- attending recreational fishing-related shows, family fishing events, forums and clinics;
- attending fish stocking/liberation events;
- liaising with grant recipients regarding the successful completion of infrastructure projects under the annual Recreational Fishing Grants Program (Large Grants);
- advising fisheries management on issues relating to recreational fishing;
- assisting Fisheries Management, Policy, Science and Licencing Branch on matters relating to recreational fishing;
- responding to recreational fishing issues raised from the 13FISH Offence Reporting Line;
- producing recreational fishing-related media releases/distributing booklets and pamphlets;
- investigating recreational fishing-related offences and prosecuting where necessary;
- collecting intelligence related to recreational fishing offences;
- participating in recreational fishing-related educational activities with school groups and the broader recreational fishing community; and
- engaging with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

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

Snobs Creek Fish Production and Stocking

In 2017/18, Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account receipts contributed \$1,894,797 to the Victorian Fisheries Authority's fish production and stocking budget. This includes the base amount of \$920,000 (approved by the RFL WG in May 2012, ongoing) to support fish production and stocking from Snobs Creek, an additional \$566,630 to boost fish stocking to a record 6 million fish through Target One Million and funds expended to finalise the RFL commissioning grant titled "Better Recreational Fishing through Informed Fish Stocking" (\$408,167). Additional funding was provided by the State Government which contributed towards achieving this year's record fish stocking.

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

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

In 2017/18 the Victorian Fisheries Authority grew 670,260 native fish and 1,174,003 salmonid fish that were stocked into public waters. In addition to these fish the VFA purchased 4,242,092 mixed species of fish that were picked up and delivered to various locations across the state.

During 2017/18 VFA staff associated with the production and delivery of fish carried out the below activities:

- Management of broodstock across all species
- Harvesting of eggs from all species
- Feeding fish of all ages
- Careful movement of fish as they develop
- Animal health monitoring and management
- Our stocking vehicles travelled 169,347 km's which took 405 days to undertake

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

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

Species	Barwon South West	Gippsland	Grampians	Hume	Loddon Mallee	Port Phillip	Grand Total
Australian Bass		474,500					474,500
Estuary Perch	7,000						7,000
Golden Perch	205,650		247,000	973,495	1,084,836	5,000	2,515,981
Macquarie Perch				17,500			17,500
Murray Cod	215,322		60,000	756,699	597,834		1,629,855
Silver Perch			54,000	37,000	126,000	18,000	235,000
Trout Cod				3,500			3,500
Natives Total	427,972	474,500	361,000	1,788,194	1,808,670	23,000	4,883,336
Brook Trout	3,270						3,270
Brown Trout	72,449	24,575	98,560	166,217	259,914	8,750	630,465
Chinook Salmon	29,715						29,715
Rainbow Trout	59,225	48,775	126,018	216,023	52,022	37,506	539,569
Salmonids Total	164,659	73,350	224,578	382,240	311,936	46,256	1,203,019
Total	592,631	547,850	585,578	2,170,434	2,120,606	69,256	6,086,355

Target One Million

In 2017/18, Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,331,282 towards the Victorian Fisheries Authority's implementation of the *Target One Million* initiative.

RFL Trust Account receipts, when added to state government funding contributes significantly to the delivery of the *Target One Million* projects. Since the beginning of the *Target One Million* initiative the Victorian Government has invested an unprecedented \$33.3 million of state revenue in the delivery of the initiative and is on track to reach a total investment of \$37 million. Over the same period \$2.65 million co-investment has been sourced from the Recreational Fishing Licence trust.

Target One Million has achieved many outstanding results so far and is continuing to deliver fantastic on ground outcomes. Below is a list of the projects implemented as part of the initiative.

- Remove commercial netting in Port Phillip Bay
- Save Lake Toolondo
- Establish a marine stocking program
- Open trout cod fisheries at Beechworth
- Create an exciting barramundi fishery at Hazelwood Pondage
- Remove boating restrictions at Blue Rock Lake
- Provide over 180 Victorian fishing clubs grants of \$2,000 to help strengthen their clubs
- Deliver school education and children's fishing programs
- Grow the trout opening festivals
- Build over 40 new facilities across Victoria to make fishing access better
- Ban netting at Gippsland lakes' river mouths
- Make Fisheries Victoria a statutory authority
- Establish an exciting new native fishery at Rocklands Reservoir
- Provide over 50 angling clubs approved to receive a defibrillator
- Stocked a record 6 million fish in Victoria
- Undertake a recreational fishing survey
- Expand the Angler Diary program
- Returned fishing to Dartmouth Pondage

A key component of the successful implementation of these projects has been the communication and support provided by key stakeholders to coordinate recreational fishing improvements across the state.

More information on *Target One Million* can be found at

www.vfa.vic.gov.au/targetonemillion

Financial Report

Report concerning how amounts paid into the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account were disbursed in 2017/18 financial year

Receipts 2017/18		\$
Total receipts from RFL sales		\$7,831,804.19
258,531 RFL's sold (as at 24 July 2018*) including: 34,252 three-year licences, 111,615 one-year licences, 12,406 28-day licences, 100,183 three-day licences and 75 48-hour licences.		
*Running a report on RFL sales several weeks after 30 June each year allows for more returns from RFL sales outlets to be captured, therefore providing a more accurate figure on total sales for the financial year.		
Interest – investments	\$36,250.00	<i>Fisheries Act 1995, S. 151B(5) enables money standing to the credit of the Account to be invested in any manner in which funds may be invested under the <i>Trustee Act 1958</i>.</i>
Refunds: RFGP projects	\$2,606.95	Project SG469 Curdievale Anglers Club. Lighting - Curdievale boat ramp. \$115.00 Project SG271 Fishcare South West Inc. Local knowledge fishing in the South West. \$366.70 Project SG367 Nangiloc Fishing Club. Primary School Education and Fishing Day. \$875.25 Project SG317 VRFish. Game Fishing Education and Awareness Video. \$1,250.00
GST Receipts	\$28,104.96	
Total receipts for the year	\$7,898,766.10	

Disbursements 2017/18		\$
Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects	\$1,484,034.08	Payments to 78 projects - see Note 2.
Target One Million Implementation	\$2,331,282.02	
Fisheries Enforcement & Education Branch	\$2,026,644.00	
Fish Stocking The purchase and stocking of native and salmonid fish to improve recreational fishing in Victorian waterways.	\$920,000.00	
VRFish	\$456,552.00	
Fishcare Victoria Inc.	\$220,555.80	
Community Information Recreational Fishing Grants Program/Recreational Fishing Licence disbursement reporting related advertising & publicity.	\$68,853.07	
Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) 6% sales commissions Applicable to sales commissions incurred during 2016/17, paid in 2017/18 financial year.	\$152,319.15	
Costs and expenses incurred in the administration of RFLs		
Salaries and on-costs.	\$384,415.19	
Business, corporate & other levies (common domain access levy, OH&S levy, training & development levy, centre leader levy, CBD accommodation and workstation charge, computer internal lease costs).	\$25,060.78	
Professional and contract services.	\$404,794.96	
Agency labour hire.	\$47,509.30	
Postal expenses, parking, vehicle hire, accommodation, printing, stationery, telephones, banking charges, office equipment, software maintenance, external learning and IT assistance.	\$49,083.97	
Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group Sitting fees, sustenance, accommodation, vehicle hire, venue hire, and personal expenses.	\$9,302.01	
Total disbursements for the year	\$8,580,406.00	
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	(\$681,639.90)	
Cash as at 1 July 2017	\$6,907,370.53	Includes unspent funds relating to VFA-led projects (see page 12) which were refunded back to the RFL Trust Account due to DEDJTR year-end corporate finance processes outside of the RFL reporting period.
Cash as at 30 June 2018	\$6,225,730.63	Provision to fund previously approved Recreational Fishing Grant Program projects extending into 2018/19 and beyond as applicable and other items totalling \$3,907,651.30 - see Note 3. Cash balance includes \$2,500,000 which has been invested – see Note 4.

Amounts are net of applicable GST

Notes to the Financial Report

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

Note 1 - Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation.

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

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

Note 2 - Payments to Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects during 2017/18

Projects initially announced in 2011/12		
Large Grants Program		
Fish habitat enhancement of the Ovens River (Wangaratta region). 3rd & final year of funding. Total project funding of \$75,000.	\$30,000.00	North East Catchment Management Authority
Sub-Total	\$30,000.00	
Projects initially announced in 2012/13		
Large Grants Program		
Monitor the Chinook salmon fish stocking program at lakes Purrumbete and Bullen Merri. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$115,667.	\$11,361.28	Lake Purrumbete Angling Club Inc.
Development of approaches to monitor and manage recreational catch of 'western stock' snapper to meet sustainability and recreational fishery objectives. Partial funding. Total project funding of \$262,206.	\$5,254.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$16,615.28	
Large Grants Program		
Renewed Fish Habitat for both Native & Trout Fishing in King River NE Victoria. 90% instalment of year three funding. Total project funding of \$190,226.82.	\$54,269.59	King Valley Tourism Association
Improving Recreational Fishing Access at Konongwootong Reservoir. Balance of 10% of funding. Total project funding of \$231,818.18 over three years.	\$23,181.82	Wannon Water Corporation
Improving access to and evaluating the effectiveness of a Merri River Estuary Fish Habitat Hotspot. Balance of 10% of funding. Total project funding of \$80,181.82 over three years.	\$8,018.18	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
Sub-Total	\$85,469.59	
Projects initially announced in 2014/15		
Large Grants Program		
Assessing the sustainability of Venus Bay's recreational and commercial pipi harvest. 90% instalment of year three funding. Total project funding of \$71,565.	\$18,899.10	University of Melbourne
Implementing better practice Murray cod fishery management. Instalment of year three funding. Total project funding of \$99,935.	\$15,100.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Understanding the stock structures, biology and population status of mullocky in Victoria. 90% instalment of year three funding. Total project funding of \$78,545.45.	\$8,378.18	Nature Glenelg Trust
Increasing fish habitat in the Pyramid Creek. Balance of 10% of funding. Total project funding of \$61,342.72.	\$6,134.27	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Increasing knowledge of Victoria's growing recreational yellowtail kingfish fishery. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$147,907.50.	\$4,895.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
All abilities fishing platform on the Aire River. Balance of 10% of funding. Total project funding of \$42,615.91.	\$4,261.59	Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs
Sub-Total	\$57,668.14	
Projects initially announced in 2015/16		
Large Grants Program		
Creating Sustainable Anglers Program (600 school based workshops and 150 community events). 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$109,090.91.	\$32,727.27	Fishcare Victoria
Rebuild 400 square metre patches of shellfish dominated natural reefs in Port Phillip Bay and monitor the benefits of these reefs to recreational fishers. 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$133,636.36.	\$30,272.73	Albert Park Yachting & Angling Club
Partnering with recreational fishers in a tagging program to understand the movements of Victorian King George whiting to their spawning areas. 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$69,944.55.	\$20,779.36	University of Melbourne
Three fishing platforms for the area on Sawtells Inlet upstream from the bridge and flood gates. Balance of 10% of funding. Total project funding of \$82,272.73.	\$8,227.27	Tooradin Foreshore Committee of Management

Construction of a fishing jetty on the Yarriambiack Creek Weir pool in the township of Warracknabeal. Balance of 10% of funding. Total project funding of \$63,000.	\$6,300.00	Warracknabeal Angling Club
Monitoring of river blackfish that were translocated into rehabilitated habitat sites in the Tarwin River. 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$20,191.04.	\$6,057.31	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Pilot Multicultural Responsible Fishing Program to provide information to targeted multicultural groups on litter management, fish size and bag limits along the lower Barwon estuary. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$14,090.91.	\$1,409.09	Barwon Coast Committee of Management
Assess the feasibility of hatchery production of fingerlings of selected flathead species for a marine stock enhancement program. Partial balance of funding. Total project funding of \$25,000.	\$677.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$106,450.03	
Projects initially announced in 2016/17		
Commissioning Grants Program		
2017/18 Communication and Compliance Products (production of a series of communication products and measuring devices to provide recreational fishers with up-to-date information on Fisheries regulations). Partial year one funding. Total project funding of \$219,800.	\$79,927.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Informing sustainable management and optimisation of Victoria's wild catch marine and estuarine recreational fisheries. Partial year one funding. Total project funding of \$130,000.	\$73,532.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$153,459.00	
Large Grants Program		
Increasing fishing habitat in the Little Murray River. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$89,834.54.	\$80,851.09	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Assessing post-release survival of Swordfish from recreational fishing. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$80,549.09.	\$72,494.18	University of Tasmania
Lower Buckland River instream habitat and riparian restoration. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$58,100.00.	\$52,290.00	Australian Trout Foundation Inc.
Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program – Phase 2. Total project funding of \$105,454.55.	\$45,000.00	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Upper Goulburn Catchment instream habitat enhancement. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$65,681.82.	\$31,950.00	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
State-wide recreational tagging program to investigate mulloway movements. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$51,272.72.	\$19,669.09	Nature Glenelg Trust
Mid Goulburn River instream habitat enhancement - Mangalore. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$21,560.00.	\$19,404.00	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Capturing the status and planning for the future of dusky flathead fisheries of eastern Victoria. Partial year one funding. Total project funding of \$30,200.	\$17,388.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Hughes Creek habitat connections. 90% instalment of year one funding plus balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$13,636.37.	\$13,636.37	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Point Richards boat ramp fish cleaning table. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$13,256.37.	\$11,930.73	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management
Indented Head boat ramp fish cleaning table. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$13,056.37.	\$11,750.73	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management
Recreational fishing information shelter. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$7,416.37.	\$6,674.73	Balmoral District Angling Club
Sub-Total	\$383,038.92	

Small Grants Program		
Community Fishing Festival 2017	\$5,000.00	Yarra Valley Fly Fishers Inc.
World Fish Migration Day Event	\$4,832.73	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Rays in Our Bays	\$4,586.00	Fishcare Victoria Inc.
Mates Day on the Bay 2017	\$4,422.72	Futurefish Foundation
Get Hooked on fishing at St Mary's Program	\$4,227.27	St Mary's House of Welcome
Australia Day Weekend Surf Fishing Carnival	\$4,100.00	Veronica Maybury Memorial Recreational Reserve CoM.
Kids Come and Try Fishing Day	\$4,050.00	Nathalia Angling Club
Schools Fishing Program	\$4,036.36	Colac Otway Shire
Kids Try Fishing Day	\$3,810.00	Kyabram Anglers Club Inc.
Community partnership for carp removal	\$3,680.00	Wangaratta Sustainability Network
Kids Fishing Fun Program	\$3,501.45	City of Wodonga
Promotion of endangered fish	\$3,500.00	Native Fish Australia Inc.
Boat Safety and Fishing Education Day	\$3,000.00	Wimmera Offshore Anglers Sport & Game Fishing Club
Junior Fishing Day	\$2,818.18	Churchill & District News
Come and Try Fishing Day for People with a Disability	\$2,650.00	Nathalia Angling Club
Carp Muster Educational Days	\$2,650.00	Wangaratta Sustainability Network
Ron Nelson Memorial Junior Fishing Clinic	\$2,587.27	Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs
Lake Boga signage upgrade	\$2,570.00	Goulburn Murray Water
Morwell Lake Family Fishing Day	\$2,454.55	Italian Australian Sporting & Social Club
Kings Billabong pest eradication and community education	\$2,400.00	Nangiloc Fishing Club
Lake William Hovell signage upgrade	\$2,350.91	Goulburn Murray Water
Come Try Fishing Day	\$2,250.00	Charlton Angling Club
Simpson Dam fishing platform	\$2,150.00	Simpson & District Lions Club
Bream Classic 2017	\$2,000.00	Twin Rivers Business & Tourism
Gone Fishing Day	\$1,705.00	Strathbogie Euroa Angling Club
Teach Kids to Fish Day	\$1,500.00	Oakdale Angling Club
Come n Try Fishing - Seadays Festival 2018	\$1,420.00	Port Welshpool Working Group Inc.
Live fish display at boat show	\$1,385.00	Native Fish Australia
Carp A Thon Family Day	\$1,272.73	St Paul's Anglican Grammar School
Dart Dam Trout Trolling Tournament	\$1,230.00	Dartmouth Alpine Anglers Club
Gone Fishing Day	\$1,121.00	Horsham Angling Club
2017 Kids Come n Try Fishing Day	\$1,022.40	Ballarat & District Anglers Association

Twilight Fishing on the River	\$856.00	Horsham Angling Club
Gone Fishing Day 2017	\$800.00	Casterton Angling Society
Campaspe Carp Catch 2017	\$610.00	Rochester & District Angling Club
Campaspe Carp Catch 2017	\$600.00	Longlea & District Landcare Group
Campaspe Carp Catch 2017	\$500.00	Kyneton Angling Club
Campaspe Carp Catch 2017	\$500.00	Strathallan Family Landcare
Campaspe Carp Catch 2017	\$500.00	Echuca Moama Landcare Group
Campaspe Carp Catch 2017	\$454.55	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Sub-Total	\$95,104.12	
Part A: Disbursements net of GST	\$927,805.08	

Disbursements for pre-existing Fisheries projects.

The projects below have been reported in a different format to previous years due to Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) commencing as a statutory authority from 1 July 2017 and timing of expenditure incurred is in line with VFA's annual report.

Projects initially announced in 2013/14		
Commissioning Grants Program		
Better Recreational Fishing Through Informed Fish Stocking (stocking an additional 1,110,000 fish over 3 years, fish surveys, development of an on-line fish stocking search engine, and captive breeding of Macquarie perch). Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$990,600.00 over three years.	\$408,167.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program (investigate the likely cause(s) of the decline in wild trout fishing in Victoria and, where possible, improve wild trout fishing through informed fisheries management interventions). Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$560,000.00 over three years.	\$79,268.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Projects initially announced in 2015/16		
Large Grants Program		
Marine and estuarine finfish recreational fisheries monitoring program 2015/16. Total project funding of \$62,000.	\$51,262.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Create marine fish habit maps which can be used by key managers of marine habitats and associated catchments to improve recreational fishing outcomes. Total project funding of \$30,000.	\$17,532.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Part B: Disbursements net of GST	\$556,229.00	
TOTAL		
Part A: Disbursements net of GST	\$927,805.08	
Part B: Disbursements net of GST	\$556,229.00	
	\$1,484,034.08	

Note 3 - Proposal to fund 2017/18's approved Recreational Fishing Grant Program projects, and other items in 2018/19 and beyond as applicable

Proposal to fund previously approved Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects extending into 2018/19 financial year and beyond as applicable, and other items

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
1718COM0001	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2018/19 Commissioning and Compliance Products.	\$219,055.70	VFA in-kind project management.
LG1718146	State-wide	Research	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	Marine	2yr	Victorian Game Fishing: knowledge, movement and best practice for catching and releasing shortfin mako and gummy sharks	\$205,000.00	VFA financial: \$88,000 In-kind: Deakin, VRFish, volunteers - \$47,000
LG1718110	Port Phillip & Western Port	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Port Phillip & Western Port	Estuarine	3yr	Maribyrnong River Native Fishery Revival	\$200,000.00	VFA: \$415,000, Melbourne Water: \$300,000, Parks Vic/DELWP: \$400,000.
1718COM0002	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	Marine & estuarine	1yr	Informing sustainable management and optimisation of Victoria's wild catch marine and estuarine recreational fisheries.	\$140,000.00	VFA management, analysis and reporting of recreational fishery catch data: \$170,000.
COM00001	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2017/18 Commissioning and Compliance Products. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$219,800.	\$139,873.00	VFA in-kind project management.
LG1718	Gippsland	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	East Gippsland CMA	East Gippsland	Estuarine	1yr	Improving Instream Habitat for Key Recreational Species in the Snowy River	\$110,000.00	Compliments major works undertaken by EGCMA through the Snowy River Rehabilitation project.
LG1718144	State-wide	Education, Information & Training	Fishcare Victoria Inc.	State-wide	All	1yr	Fishcare - Get Hooked on Fishing App	\$107,545.00	Fishcare \$6,000+ financial and \$26,000+ in-kind.
16/17/194	State-wide	Research	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	Inland	2yr	Population status and report cards for key native recreational fisheries. Total project funding of \$100,000.00.	\$100,000.00	DELWP: \$300,000 over 3 years. Victorian Fisheries Authority: \$200,000 over 3 years (2016/17, 2017/18 & 2018/19).
LG1718	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	North East CMA	Northern	Inland	1yr	Mitta Rehabilitation Project - Mitta Mitta River, from the high-water mark of Lake Hume to the township of Eskdale.	\$88,000.00	Complimented by MDBA Channel Capacity Program works (\$380,000).

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
COM/10/11/04	Northern	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Northern Victoria	Inland	3yr	Building northern native fisheries, great fishing on the Campaspe, Loddon & Gunbower systems. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$779,500.	\$77,950.00	VFA: \$260,000.
LG1718	Port Phillip & Western Port	Access & Facilities	Corinella Foreshore Reserve Inc.	Corinella	Marine	1yr	Stair Access to Corinella Foreshore	\$71,400.00	Corinella Foreshore Reserve Inc. \$14,240
16/17/97	Northern	Research	DELWP, Arthur Rylah Institute	Northern	Inland	2yr	Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program – Phase 2. 2nd year and balance of funding Total project funding of \$105,454.54.	\$60,454.54	\$60,000 from Target One Million program to fund 2 annual wild trout fishing conferences. VFA project management - \$15,200.
COM00022	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	Marine & estuarine	1yr	Informing sustainable management and optimisation of Victoria's wild catch marine and estuarine recreational fisheries. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$130,000.	\$56,468.00	VFA management, analysis and reporting of recreational fishery catch data: \$170,000.
LG1718107	South West	Education, Information & Training	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	Portland	Marine	1yr	Enhancement of citizen science in the recreational fishery for southern bluefin tuna in Victoria. Location: Portland, Victoria	\$56,030.00	Various in-kind: \$28,000
LG1718	Northern	Access & Facilities	Jeparit Anglers Club	Jeparit	Inland	1yr	Fishing Pontoon on the Wimmera River Jeparit	\$55,500.00	Jeparit Anglers Club \$3,000 and ongoing maintenance.
LG1718	South West	Access & Facilities	Hindmarsh Shire Council	Nhill	Inland		Nhill Lake Fishing Pontoon	\$54,700.00	Hindmarsh Shire: \$10,000 Nhill Lake CoM in-kind: \$1,250
15/16/01	State-wide	Education, Information & Training	Fishcare Victoria Inc.	State-wide	State-wide	3yr	Creating Sustainable Anglers Program (600 school based workshops and 150 community events). 3rd year and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$109,090.91.	\$43,636.36	Anticipated dollar for dollar contribution of in-kind Fishcare volunteer effort to match this grant.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
LG1718	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Lower Goulburn River: Re-snagging for native fish habitat	\$44,840.00	The GBCMA will provide project management.
LG1718153	South West	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Deakin University	Gellibrand River	Inland	1yr	Establishing a Southern River Blackfish spawning and recruitment monitoring network in the Gellibrand River Catchment	\$34,480.00	Deakin University in-kind: \$14,350
16/17/70	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Wild Trout Fisheries - Upper Goulburn Instream Habitat Enhancement. 2nd year and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$65,681.82	\$33,731.82	State Government funded Angler Riparian Partnership Program - \$100,000 over 4 years
LG1718130	Port Phillip & Western Port	Education, Information & Training	Macedonian Community Welfare Association Inc.	Port Phillip & Western Port	All	2yr	Metropolitan Migrant and Refugee Seniors Sustainable Fishing Education Program: Overcoming Multicultural Barriers to Sustainable Recreational Fishing	\$32,614.00	Total financial and in-kind contributions from MCWA = \$29,500.
16/17/63	State-wide	Research	Nature Glenelg Trust	State-wide	Marine & Estuarine	3yr	A state-wide recreational tagging program to investigate mulloway movements. 2nd and 3rd year and balance of funding Total project funding of \$51,272.73.	\$31,603.63	Recreational fishers in-kind: \$74,000. VFA, Fishcare and the Australian National Sportfishing Association in-kind: \$20,000. Nature Glenelg Trust in-kind: \$10,000.
LG1718115	Northern	Access & Facilities	Murtoa Angling Club	Murtoa	Inland	1yr	Build a new fishing jetty over one year on Lake Marmia in Murtoa for improved access to recreational fishing	\$31,520.00	Project management and ongoing maintenance by Murtoa Angling Club and Lake Marmia CoM.
13/14/54	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	North East Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	3yr	Mitta Mitta River Habitat Rehabilitation Project-Eskdale to high water mark of Lake Hume. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$266,981.82.	\$26,698.18	Financial: \$325,000 from MDBA for fish surveys, bank stabilisation works, fence and revegetation works. In-kind: NECMA project management.
14/15/33	Northern	Research	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Northern	Inland	3yr	Implementing better practice Murray cod fishery management. 3rd year and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$99,935.	\$25,425.50	In-kind. Volunteer recreational anglers: \$57,600.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
LG1718140	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Rubicon River	Inland	1yr	Rubicon River Fish Habitat Enhancement Project	\$24,500.00	The 4-year (\$100,000) State Government funded Angler Riparian Partnership Program complement this project.
LG1718156	South West	Research	Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body	South West	Marine	2yr	Pilot study of striped trumpeter in western Victorian waters through citizen science	\$24,132.00	Various in-kind: \$30,920
12/1323	State-wide	Research	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	Marine	3yr	Development of approaches to monitor and manage recreational catch of 'western stock' snapper to meet sustainability and recreational fishery objectives. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$262,206.	\$21,056.60	
15/16/30	Port Phillip & Western Port	Research	University of Melbourne	Port Phillip & Western Port	Marine	3yr	Partnering with recreational fishers in a tagging program to understand the movements of Victorian King George whiting to their spawning areas. 3rd year and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$69,944.55.	\$19,427.54	\$10,000 per annum co-funding for salary support. Volunteer labour contribution of anglers, 2000 hours @\$25 per hour = \$50,000.
12/1317	Northern	Research	Greenfish Consulting Pty Ltd	Murray Darling Basin	Inland	3yr	Develop and implement a consistent method for assessing the sustainability of Murray cod in the Murray Darling Basin. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$150,000.	\$15,000.00	FRDC \$375,000, Native Fish Strategy \$23,900, Fisheries Victoria \$36,000, PIRSA Fisheries \$30,000.
LG1718137	South West	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	South West	Inland	1yr	Merri River Fish Habitat Hotspot - Stage 2 Platypus Park	\$13,761.00	GHCMA: \$7,500 Various in-kind: \$3,100
15/16/17	Port Phillip	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Albert Park Yachting & Angling Club	Port Phillip	Marine	2yr	Rebuild 400 square metre patches of shellfish dominated natural reefs in Port Phillip Bay and monitor the benefits of these reefs to recreational fishers. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$133,636.36.	\$13,363.64	Total co-funds = \$150,000 (Inc. \$20,000 from Albert Park Yachting Angling Club). Minimum of \$30,000 of in-kind contribution.
16/17/87	Gippsland	Education, Information & Training	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Gippsland	Estuarine	1yr	Dusky flathead conference: capturing the status and planning for the future. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$30,200.	\$12,811.00	\$10,000 through the 'Target One Million' initiative. \$10,000 in-kind.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
14/15/34	Port Phillip & Western Port	Research	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Port Phillip & Western Port	Marine	2yr	Increasing knowledge of Victoria's growing recreational yellowtail kingfish fishery. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$147,907.50.	\$9,895.75	VFA: \$20,000 financial, \$83,000 in-kind.
16/17/95	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Increasing fish habitat in the Little Murray River. Balance of 10% of funding. Total project funding of \$89,834.55.	\$8,983.45	VicRoads: \$10,000 to transport 10 truckloads of timber. NCCMA in-kind project management: \$16,870.
15/16/36	West Gippsland	Research	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Tarwin River	Inland	3yr	Monitoring of river blackfish that were translocated into rehabilitated habitat sites in the Tarwin River. 3rd year and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$20,191.04.	\$8,076.42	The WGCMA will contribute \$3,118.50 to produce a promotional video for the project.
16/17/48	State-wide	Research	IMAS - University of Tasmania	State-wide	Marine	1yr	Assessing post-release survival of Swordfish from recreational fishing. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$80,549.09.	\$8,054.91	\$68,580 - Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. \$30,000 - Tasmanian State Government. \$5,000 - Game Fishing Association of Australia. \$9,000 - TarFISH.
14/15/06	South West	Research	Nature Glenelg Trust	South West	Estuarine	3yr	Understanding the stock structures, biology and population status of mullet in Victoria. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$78,545.45.	\$7,854.55	In-kind: Recreational fishers: \$37,000 for the collection of samples. SARDI-PIRSA, Murdoch University and Fish Ageing Services Pty Ltd - \$15,000. Nature Glenelg Trust: \$10,000.
14/15/40	Gippsland	Research	University of Melbourne	Venus Bay	Marine	3yr	Assessing the sustainability of Venus Bay's recreational and commercial pipi harvest. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$71,565.	\$7,156.50	Financial: \$8,600. In-kind: \$89,105.
15/16/56	State-wide	Research	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	Estuarine & Marine	1yr	Marine and estuarine finfish recreational fisheries monitoring program 2016/17. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$62,000.	\$6,200.00	VFA is committed to fund the management, analysis and reporting of recreational fishery catch data collected.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
13/14/25	State-wide	Education, Information & Training	Zoological Parks and Gardens Board	State-wide	State-wide	3yr	Install a further 90 'Seal the loop' fishing line disposal bins around Victoria. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$60,000.	\$6,000.00	In-kind: Interpretive displays, presentations and an onsite education program at Melbourne Zoo to accompany the initiative. Communication and media support.
16/17/67	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Australian Trout Foundation	Northern	Inland	1yr	Lower Buckland River In-stream Habitat and Riparian Restoration. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$58,100.	\$5,810.00	
15/16/54	State-wide	Research	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	Continuation of State-wide Angler Diary Program in 2016/17. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$54,000.	\$5,400.00	VFA project management, analysis and reporting support. In-kind \$60,000.
14/15/27	State-wide	Education, Information and Training	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	3yr	Cool Tools to Learn the Rules. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$50,000.	\$5,000.00	VFA. In-kind \$90,000.
15/16/43	State-wide	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Marine	Inland	1yr	Create marine fish habit maps which can be used by key managers of marine habitats and associated catchments to improve recreational fishing outcomes. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$30,000.	\$3,000.00	Project management in-kind contribution from VFA. \$15,000.
14/15/15	South West	Access & Facilities	Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs Inc.	Princetown	Estuarine	1yr	Fishing Platform on the Gellibrand River at Princetown. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$27,921.65.	\$2,792.16	Co-funding from VFA: The Recreational Fishing Initiative - \$32,434.45. In-kind: Association of Geelong and District Angling Clubs \$1,500.00
15/16/46	State-wide	Research	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	Estuarine and Marine	1yr	Assess the feasibility of hatchery production of fingerlings of selected flathead species for a marine stock enhancement program. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$25,000.	\$1,823.00	The project team will seek to obtain matching funds from the Target-One-Million (TOM) program in 2016/17.
14/15/41	Northern	Research	Bendigo & District Fly Fishers Inc.	Harcourt	Inland	1yr	Rebuilding the trout fishery at Barkers Creek (Harcourt) Reservoir. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$24,946.	\$2,494.60	In-kind: VFA - \$3,000. Bendigo and District Fly Fishers Club - \$3,000. ARI - \$2,350.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
16/17/84	Northern	Sustainability and Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Goulburn River Instream Habitat Enhancement - Mid Goulburn River - Mangalore. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$21,560.00.	\$2,156.00	The GBCMA are undertaking a number of complimentary riparian restoration projects (including fencing, weed control and re-vegetation).
15/16/19	South West	Research	Lake Purrumbete Angling Club Inc.	Lake Purrumbete	Inland	1yr	Managing redfin perch in Lake Purrumbete - modelling impacts of fish reduction on population size and structure. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$14,500.	\$1,450.00	
16/17/80	South West	Access & Facilities	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management	Point Richards	Marine	1yr	Point Richards Boat Ramp Fish Cleaning Table. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$13,256.36.	\$1,325.64	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management in-kind: \$1,400.
16/17/81	South West	Access & Facilities	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management	Indented Head	Marine	1yr	Indented Head Boat Ramp Fish Cleaning Table. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of 13,056.36.	\$1,305.64	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management in-kind: \$1,400.
16/17/66	South West	Education, Information & Training	Balmoral & District Angling Club Inc.	Balmoral	Inland	1yr	Balmoral Fishing Information Shelter. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$7,416.36.	\$741.64	\$550 financial contribution. \$2,400.00 labour in-kind.
							Sub-total	\$2,286,097.77	

Other items

Project No.	DEPI Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
Not applicable	State-wide	Not applicable	Fishcare Victoria Inc.	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2017/18 Core funding. Total project funding of \$216,847.71	\$22,096.78	Nil financial contributions.
							Sub-total	\$22,096.78	
							Sub-total	\$2,308,194.55	

Proposal to fund RFL sales commission not claimed

Proposal	Funding	
	\$9,884.78	Excludes RFL sales commission receipts not submitted by licence sellers.
Sub-total	\$9,884.78	
Sub-total	\$2,318,079.33	

Proposal to fund 2017/18's approved Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects and emerging recreational fisheries issues in 2018/19

Proposal	Funding	
	\$3,907,651.30	
Total	\$6,225,730.63	
Balance remaining	\$0.00	

Note 4 - Cash assets

Cash as at 30 June 2018 of \$6,225,730.63 shown in the financial statement includes \$2,500,000 which has been invested pursuant to Section 151B(5) *Fisheries Act 1995*.

Statutory Certification

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

I further state that, in my opinion, the information set out in the Receipts & Disbursements Report and notes to the financial report, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2018.

I am not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.



Brian Mottram

Manager – Recreational Initiatives

Victorian Fisheries Authority

18 September 2018

Independent Audit Report from Auditor-General



Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Secretary, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Opinion	<p>I have audited the special purpose financial report of the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account, which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• financial report• notes to the financial report• statutory certification. <p>In my opinion the special purpose financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts into and disbursements from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account for the year ended 30 June 2018 in accordance with the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>.</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. My responsibilities under the Act are further described 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 comply with all applicable independence and 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 Australia. 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>
Basis of accounting for financial report	<p>Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 Statement of Accounting Policies to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting obligations under the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.</p>
Secretary's responsibility for the financial report	<p>The Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>, and for such internal control as the Secretary determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources has determined that the financial report is appropriate to the needs of the Minister for Agriculture.</p>

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial report	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.</p> <p>As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 trust account's internal control • evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used by the Secretary • 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. <p>I communicate with the Secretary regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.</p>
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MELBOURNE
18 September 2018



Simone Bohan
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

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