



Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account 2018/19

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



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Cover image: Woody habitat being reintroduced into the Little Murray River to benefit populations of Murray cod, golden perch, silver perch and freshwater catfish between Little Murray Weir and Swan Hill.

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Foreword

A report to each House of Parliament on the disbursement of Recreational Fishing Licence Revenue from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account, 2018/19

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 Fishing and Boating, 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 popular outdoor activity.

Over the past 12 months, 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.

In July 2019, I announced that over \$648,790 will be allocated to 10 new projects through the 2018/19 round of the Large Grants Program. These projects include habitat restoration in the Gippsland Lakes and the Little Murray River, the development of two new fishing lakes at Rainbow and Yaaapeet, and new and upgraded fishing facilities and access at Ferntree Gully's Quarry Lake, the Reeves Landing Jetty at Lakes Entrance and the Rippleside Jetty in Corio Bay. Two other projects will see Fishcare Victoria deliver hundreds of fishing clinics at community events and at schools and also develop a 'Fishing for All Abilities' program in partnership with several bayside councils in Melbourne.

A further \$466,000 was allocated via the Commissioning Grants Program; \$300,000 to produce a range of popular education and communication products that assist recreational anglers to understand and comply with fishing regulations, and \$166,000 for the monitoring of key marine and estuarine fisheries.

The Small Grants Program has again been very popular with \$78,677.80 being provided for 36 projects during 2018/19. This program has now funded over 375 projects worth more than \$968,000 since its inception in 2010.

I am also very pleased to advise that during 2018/19 an additional \$3,525,496.96 was allocated towards the implementation of the Target One Million plan, which included the state-wide fish stocking program, infrastructure and access projects, recreational fishing festivals and events and expanding the Statewide Angler Diary Program.

During 2018/19, 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 across 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 2018/19.



Hon Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Fishing and Boating
22 November 2019

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 role of the Victorian Fisheries Authority is to administer the Recreational Fishing Licence Program and manage the amounts determined by the Minister for Fishing and Boating for the purpose of improving recreational fishing.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority also administers the Recreational Fishing Grants Program and provides support to the Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group which provides advice to the Minister for Fishing and Boating on how funds from the sale of licences should be spent to improve recreational fishing in Victoria.

The 2018/19 financial year is the eighteenth full year of the RFL Trust Account's operation.

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office has audited the receipts received, and disbursements made from the RFL Trust Account in 2018/19.

Enforcement & Education

In 2018/19, Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,043,683.65 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 63,000 total contacts were made with recreational fishers by Fisheries Officers during the reporting period. Compliance contacts with Fisheries Officers totalled over 56,600, 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 5 angling club meetings, conducted 6,359 advisory contacts with recreational fishers and 16 contacts during recreational fishing related shows, forums and clinics.

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.

Table 1.

Recreational	Contacts with recreational fishers	Number of offenders	Verbal warnings issued	Official warnings issued	Infringement notices issued	Briefs of evidence compiled
Abalone Central Waters	1983	302	45	210	248	19
Abalone (intertidal zone)	211	59	18	46	35	1
Abalone (other waters)	541	53	7	26	50	6
Bass yabbies	83	9	1	0	9	0
Bay & Inlet - other	6123	362	91	136	143	0
Bay & Inlet - other (Corner Inlet)	46	5	4	0	2	0
Bay & Inlet - other (Gippsland Lakes)	25	4	2	0	2	0
Bay & Inlet - Port Phillip	15549	1127	262	464	423	13
Bay & Inlet - Western Port	3155	186	37	70	86	0
Eels	39	10	4	0	2	5
Estuary	1768	92	30	38	23	0
Freshwater	5449	461	149	148	171	2
Golden perch	2219	102	21	38	46	0
Illegal equipment	33	21	7	3	7	2
Intertidal - other	390	104	35	45	42	2
Intertidal - pipis	2980	307	152	81	94	4
Intertidal - Port Phillip	336	112	53	52	38	1
Intertidal - red shore crab	324	26	2	10	14	0
Marine Parks	169	60	9	34	34	0
Murray cod	2252	149	35	46	64	1
Ocean	5374	398	106	173	136	4
Rock lobster	704	48	4	35	20	7
Salmonids	2146	170	47	47	75	0
Sand crabs	43	2	0	0	2	0
Scallops	20	0	0	0	0	0
Spearfishing	314	8	2	2	4	0
Spiny Cray	947	65	24	29	24	0
Squid - cephalopods	149	3	1	1	1	0
Tourism Operators	49	2	1	1	0	0
Trout cod	1	0	0	0	0	0
TSV – Marine Safety	2672	440	259	134	136	0
Tuna	309	7	3	2	0	0
Yabbies - freshwater	290	15	4	10	7	0
Totals	56,693	4,709	1,415	1,881	1,938	67

Snobs Creek Fish Production and Stocking

In 2018/19, Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,090,922 to the Victorian Fisheries Authority's fish production and stocking budget. This includes \$866,637 of the base amount of \$920,000 (approved by the RFGWG in May 2012, ongoing) to support fish production and stocking from Snobs Creek, and an additional \$1,224,285 from the Target One Million initiative to boost fish stocking to a new record of over 7 million fish. 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, meet costs associated with the delivery of fish across the state and for the purchase of additional fish.

In 2018/19 the Victorian Fisheries Authority grew 895,315 native fish and 1,022,599 salmonid fish that were stocked into public waters. In addition to these fish the VFA purchased 5,079,302 mixed species of fish that were picked up and delivered to various locations across the state.

During 2018/19 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 208,305 km's which took 470 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	5,000	286,875	-	-	-	-	291,875
Estuary Perch	75,000	67,500	-	-	-	133,000	275,500
Golden Perch	300,000	-	450,000	1,128,986	1,350,400	5,200	3,234,586
Macquarie Perch	-	-	-	7,510	-	-	7,510
Murray Cod	300,020	-	90,343	925,751	537,394	50	1,853,558
Silver Perch	-	-	40,000	33,090	186,400	18,000	277,490
Trout Cod	-	-	-	34,297	-	-	34,297
Natives Total	680,020	354,375	580,343	2,129,634	2,074,194	156,250	5,974,816
Brown Trout	84,934	14,500	74,665	87,529	239,349	5,000	505,977
Chinook Salmon	76,346	-	-	-	-	-	76,346
Rainbow Trout	112,425	33,600	108,846	96,104	50,500	38,602	440,077
Salmonids Total	273,705	48,100	183,511	183,633	289,849	43,602	1,022,400
Total	953,725	402,475	763,854	2,313,267	2,364,043	199,852	6,997,216

Target One Million – Phase 2

In 2018/19, Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account receipts contributed \$3,525,496.96 (including carry forwards from previous years) towards the Victorian Fisheries Authority's implementation of the *Target One Million* initiative to grow participation to one million anglers by 2020.

RFL Trust Account receipts, when added to state government funding contributes significantly to the delivery of the *Target One Million* plan. The original initiative saw the Victorian Government invest an unprecedented \$37 million of state revenue in the delivery of a suite of projects to grow recreational fishing. Over the same period a \$9 million co-investment had been sourced from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust.

The State Government has extended its commitment to recreational fishers in Victoria, with *Phase 2* of the *Target One Million* plan.

To get more people fishing, more often, the renewed plan will invest over \$35 million of State Government funding to:

- Phase out commercial fishing in the Gippsland Lakes through a compulsory buyout to give the Lakes back to recreational anglers, boost tourism and create jobs
- Construct a new \$7 million native fish hatchery in Shepparton focussed on warm water species such as Murray cod and golden perch
- Increase fish stocking to 10 million fish annually by 2022
- Allow anglers to use boats and kayaks with electric motors on some lakes and reservoirs including Tullaroop, Lauriston, Hepburn, Barkers Creek, Upper Coliban and Malmsbury
- Mandate access for fishing and camping through opening up hundreds of kilometres of crown land river frontages, many covered by grazing licences
- Stock Eastern king prawns into Lake Tyers
- Invest in restoration of the Gippsland Lakes to ensure the environment remains healthy
- Invest \$1.5 million for a new on water café on Bullock Island in partnership with the Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-Operative Society
- Invest \$600,000, in addition to fishing licence fees, on fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms
- Improve fish habitat in Port Phillip by investing \$2.5 million in reef development
- Advocate for Southern bluefin tuna to protect the fishery from bag limit cuts by the Commonwealth
- Release more native fish including Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch into suburban lakes such as Rowville, Lilydale, Karkarook, Casey Fields, Navan Park, Roxburgh and Melton
- Introduce a new Fishing for All program to get more people into fishing, including a further \$200,000 into the Vic Fish Kids program
- Offer number plates for recreational fishers
- Invest \$200,000 to develop a recreational fishing tourism plan with a focus on events and marketing regions and towns with specific species.

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 – Phase 2* can be found at www.vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/targetonemillion2

Financial Report

Report concerning how amounts paid into the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account were disbursed in 2018/19 financial year

Receipts 2018/19		\$
Total receipts from Recreational Fishing Licence sales	\$8,712,710.18	
264,814 RFL's sold including: 36,929 three-year licences, 115,015 one-year licences, 10,978 28-day licences, 101,870 three-day licences and 22 48-hour licences.		
Interest – investments	\$37,421.12	<i>Fisheries Act 1995</i> , S. 151B(5) enables money standing to the credit of the Account to be invested in any manner in which funds may be invested under the <i>Trustee Act 1958</i> .
Refunds: Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects	\$6,695.38	Project LG14/15/04 Birchip & District Angling Club. Tchum Lake resnagging project. \$2,479.60 Project SG627 Churchill and District News. Junior Fishing Day 2018. \$1,588.95 Project SG545 Oakdale Angling Club. Teach Kids to Fish Day. \$668.22 Project SG664 Southern Fly Fishers. Women in Fly Fishing Day. \$562.49 Project SG281 Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation \$370.99 Project SG641 Dartmouth Alpine Anglers Club. Dart Dam Trout Trolling Tournament. \$319.70 Project LG131461 King Valley Tourism Association \$195.56 Project SG638 North Central Catchment Management Authority. Campaspe Carp Catch. \$137.73 Project SG638 North Central Catchment Authority. Campaspe Carp Catch 2018. \$125.21 Project SG523 Longlea and District Landcare Group. Campaspe Carp Catch 2017. \$96.10 Project SG670 Horsham Angling Club. Twilight Fishing on the River 2019. \$80.20 Project SG585 Nangiloc Fishing Club. Kings Billabong pest eradication and community education. \$70.63
GST Receipts	\$0.00	
Total receipts for the year	\$8,756,826.68	

Disbursements 2018/19		\$
Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects	\$1,305,314.88	Payments to 75 projects - see Note 2.
Target One Million Implementation	\$3,525,496.96	
Fisheries Enforcement & Education Branch	\$2,043,683.65	
Fish Stocking	\$866,636.63	
The purchase and stocking of native and salmonid fish.		
VRFish	\$512,479.15	
Fishcare Victoria Inc.	\$225,442.42	
Community Information	\$21,787.11	
Recreational Fishing Grants Program/Recreational Fishing Licence disbursement reporting related advertising & publicity.		
Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) 6% sales commissions	\$103,007.53	
Applicable to sales commissions incurred during 2017/18, paid in 2018/19 financial year.		
Costs and expenses incurred in the administration of RFLs		
Salaries and on-costs.	\$456,001.48	
Business, corporate & other levies (common domain access levy, OH&S levy, training & development levy, centre leader levy, accommodation, workstation and computer lease costs).	\$64,668.85	
Professional and contract services.	\$194,710.66	
Agency labour hire.	\$108,837.29	
Postal expenses, parking, vehicle hire, accommodation, printing, stationery, telephones, banking charges, office equipment, external learning and IT assistance.	\$7,910.44	
Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group	\$32,177.72	
Sitting fees, sustenance, accommodation, vehicle hire, venue hire, and personal expenses.		
Snobs Creek Advisory Board	\$11,640.24	
Sitting fees, sustenance, accommodation, vehicle hire, venue hire, and personal expenses.		
GST Payable	\$320.48	
Total disbursements for the year	\$9,480,115.49	
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	(\$723,288.81)	
Cash as at 1 July 2018	\$6,689,384.88	Opening balance restated - See Note 3
Available Trust funds as at 30 June 2019	\$5,966,096.07	Provision to fund previously approved RFGP projects extending into 2019/20 and beyond as applicable and other items totalling \$1,862,447.50 - see Note 4.
Payables in the RFL Trust Account, in consideration for expenditure incurred by the VFA funded from the RFL Trust Account in 2018-19 and timing difference related to grants drawn down from the RFL Trust Account.	\$4,553,310.85	See note 6
Cash as at 30 June 2019	\$10,519,406.92	Cash balance includes \$2,510,209 which has been invested – see Note 5.

Amounts are net of applicable GST

Notes to the Financial Report

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

Note 1 - Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

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

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

Funds received by the Trust include:

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

These are reported as receipts in the Financial Report.

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

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

Note 2 - Payments to Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects during 2018/19

Projects initially announced in 2012/13		
Large Grants Program		
Development of approaches to monitor and manage recreational catch of 'western stock' snapper to meet sustainability and recreational fishery objectives. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$262,206.	\$2,995.91	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$2,995.91	
Projects initially announced in 2013/14		
Large Grants Program		
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	North East Catchment Management Authority
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	Zoological Parks and Gardens Board
Sub-Total	\$32,698.18	
Projects initially announced in 2014/15		
Large Grants Program		
Implementing better practice Murray cod fishery management. Instalment of year three funding and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$99,935.	\$25,455.79	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Increasing knowledge of Victoria's growing recreational yellowtail kingfish fishery. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$147,907.50.	\$11,724.49	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Understanding the stock structures, biology and population status of mullocky in Victoria. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$78,545.45.	\$7,854.55	Nature Glenelg Trust
Cool Tools to Learn the Rules. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$50,000.	\$1,315.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$46,349.83	
Projects initially announced in 2015/16		
Commissioning Grants Program		
Marine and estuarine finfish recreational fisheries monitoring program 2016/17. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$62,000.	\$127.46	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$127.46	
Large Grants Program		
Creating Sustainable Anglers Program (600 school-based workshops and 150 community events). 90% instalment of year three 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. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$133,636.36.	\$13,363.64	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 three funding. Total project funding of \$69,944.55.	\$12,433.09	University of Melbourne
Monitoring of river blackfish that were translocated into rehabilitated habitat sites in the Tarwin River. 90% instalment of year three funding. Total project funding of \$20,191.04.	\$6,057.31	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
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	Lake Purrumbete Angling Club
Sub-Total	\$66,031.31	

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.	\$37,875.20	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.	\$55,096.45	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$92,971.65	
Large Grants Program		
Population status and report cards for key native recreational fisheries. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.	\$90,000.00	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program – Phase 2. 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$105,454.55.	\$49,909.09	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Upper Goulburn Catchment instream habitat enhancement. 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$65,681.82.	\$27,163.64	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
State-wide recreational tagging program to investigate mulloway movements. 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$51,272.72.	\$17,050.91	Nature Glenelg Trust
Increasing fishing habitat in the Little Murray River. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$89,834.54.	\$8,983.45	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Point Richards boat ramp fish cleaning table. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$13,256.37.	\$1,325.64	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management
Indented Head boat ramp fish cleaning table. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$13,056.37.	\$1,305.64	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management
Sub-Total	\$195,738.37	
Projects initially announced in 2017/18		
Commissioning Grants Program		
2018/19 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 \$219,055.70.	\$112,879.41	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 \$140,000.	\$55,853.17	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$168,732.58	
Large Grants Program		
Improving Instream Habitat for Key Recreational Species in the Snowy River. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00.	\$90,000.00	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Fishcare - Get Hooked on Fishing App. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$97,768.18.	\$87,991.36	Fishcare Victoria
Mitta Rehabilitation Project - Mitta Mitta River, from the high-water mark of Lake Hume to the township of Eskdale. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$80,000.00.	\$72,000.00	North East Catchment Management Authority
Stair Access to Corinella Foreshore. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$64,909.09.	\$58,418.18	Corinella Foreshore Reserve Inc.
Fishing Pontoon on the Wimmera River Jeparit. 90% instalment of year one funding plus 10% balance of funding. Total project funding of \$55,000.00.	\$55,000.00	Jeparit Anglers Club
Nhill Lake Fishing Pontoon. 90% instalment of year one funding plus 10% balance of funding. Total project funding of \$49,727.27.	\$49,727.27	Hindmarsh Shire Council
Enhancement of citizen science in the recreational fishery for southern bluefin tuna in Victoria.	\$45,842.73	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd
Lower Goulburn River: Re-snagging for native fish habitat. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$40,763.64.	\$36,687.27	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Build a new fishing jetty over one year on Lake Marma in Murtoa for improved access to recreational fishing. 90% instalment of year one funding plus 10% balance of funding. Total project funding of \$31,520.00.	\$31,520.00	Murtoa Angling Club
Establishing a Southern River Blackfish spawning and recruitment monitoring network in the Gellibrand River Catchment. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$31,345.45	\$24,054.55	Deakin University
Rubicon River Fish Habitat Enhancement Project. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$22,272.73.	\$20,045.45	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Maribyrnong River Native Fishery Revival. Year one funding. Total project funding of \$200,000.00.	\$14,807.07	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Metropolitan Migrant and Refugee Seniors Sustainable Fishing Education Program: Overcoming Multicultural Barriers to Sustainable Recreational Fishing. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$29,649.09.	\$13,526.18	Macedonian Community Welfare Association Inc.
Merri River Fish Habitat Hotspot - Stage 2 Platypus Park. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$12,510.00.	\$11,259.00	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
Pilot study of striped trumpeter in western Victorian waters through citizen science. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$21,938.18.	\$10,112.73	VRFish
Sub-Total	\$620,991.79	
Small Grants Program		
Mates Day on the Bay 2018	\$4,654.55	Futurefish Foundation
Lake Benalla Fish Habitat	\$4,522.80	Tatong Anglers Group
Fly Fishing Casting Hoops	\$4,464.00	Ballarat Fly Fishers Club
Kids Come and Try Fishing Day	\$4,100.00	Nathalia Angling Club
Catch a Carp events.	\$3,636.36	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Frankston Fishing Frenzy	\$3,636.36	Frankston City Council
Junior Fishing Day 2018	\$3,572.73	Churchill & District News
Kids Fishing Fun Program	\$3,289.10	City of Wodonga
Australia Day Weekend Surf Fishing Carnival	\$3,200.00	Veronica Maybury Memorial Recreational Reserve CoM.
Kids Fishing Fun Program	\$3,126.45	City of Wodonga
Kids Fishing Fun program and FISHATHON event	\$2,919.75	City of Wodonga
Promotion of endangered native fish	\$2,800.00	Native Fish Australia
Introduction to Fishing	\$2,700.00	Mitcham Angling Club
Bendigo Health Disability Kids Clinic	\$2,683.00	That's the Thing About Fishing
Ron Nelson Memorial Junior Fishing Clinic	\$2,610.45	Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs
Women in Fly Fishing Day	\$2,400.00	Southern Fly Fishers
Kids Fishing Day	\$2,399.80	Lethbridge Recreation Reserve Inc.
Ovens River Challenge	\$2,327.27	Australian Trout Foundation Inc.
Come Try Fishing Day	\$1,815.00	Kyabram Anglers Club
Butler Creek Habitat Mapping	\$1,797.88	Ozfish Unlimited
Come n Try Fishing - Seadays Festival 2019	\$1,420.00	Port Welshpool Working Group Inc.
Dart Dam Trout Trolling Tournament	\$1,400.00	Dartmouth Alpine Anglers Club
Annual Fishing Event	\$1,316.36	Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation
Catch a Carp Day	\$1,270.00	Fishcare East Gippsland
Community Pre-Season Fishing Day	\$1,240.00	Pyramid Hill Football Netball Club Inc.
Come and Try Fishing Day	\$1,205.00	Ballarat District Anglers Association
Family Fishing Day	\$1,056.66	Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron
Fishing Day	\$1,000.00	Colbinabbin Cricket Club

Fishcare Fun Day	\$1,000.00	Bemm River Angling Club
Disadvantaged Schools Fishing Program	\$1,000.00	Fishcare Central Highlands
School Fishing Program	\$854.55	Oxley Primary School
Twilight Fishing on the River	\$812.00	Horsham Angling Club
Fishing Clinic – Hopetoun College & Rainbow Secondary College	\$810.00	Bellarine Light Game & Sportfishing Club
Senior Citizens Fishing Event	\$680.00	Nagambie Angling Club
Come and Try Fishing Day	\$545.00	Donald Angling Club
Carp A Thon Family	\$412.73	St Paul's Anglican Grammar School
Sub-Total	\$78,677.80	
Disbursements net of GST	\$1,305,314.88	

Note 3 – Restatement of opening balance for 2018-19

The Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account is prepared on a cash basis as stated in note 1 of the Financial Statements. The opening position of the Trust for 2018-19 has been restated due to the identification of expenses incurred in the 2017-18 financial year but not settled by balance date. These transactions were included as disbursements in the 2017-18 financial year and have been corrected in the 2018-19 report. The below table shows the impact on the 2017-18 disbursements. The cash outflow for these transactions occurred in the 2018-19 and are included in the disbursements in the 2018-19 financial report.

	Published 2017-18	Cash flow Adjustment	Restated 2017-18
Target One Million Implementation	\$2,331,282.02	-\$122,545.45	\$2,208,736.57
Fisheries Enforcement & Education Branch	\$2,026,644.00	-\$295,453.60	\$1,731,190.40
VRFish	\$456,552.00	-\$45,655.20	\$410,896.80
Other Disbursements	\$3,765,928.31	-	\$3,765,928.31
Total Disbursements for the Year	\$8,580,406.33	-\$463,654.25	\$8,116,752.08
Cash Balance	\$6,225,730.63	\$463,654.25	\$6,689,384.88

Note 4 - Proposal to fund 2018/19's approved Recreational Fishing Grant Program projects, and other items in 2019/20 and beyond as applicable

Proposal to fund previously approved Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects extending into 2019/20 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
CM1819002	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2019/20 Communication and Compliance Products. Total project funding of \$300,000.	\$300,000.00	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. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$205,000.00.	\$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	Maribymong River Native Fishery Revival. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$200,000.00.	\$185,192.93	VFA: \$415,000, Melbourne Water: \$300,000, Parks Vic/DELWP: \$400,000.
CM1819001	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	Informing sustainable management of Victoria's wild catch fisheries. Total project funding of \$166,000.00.	\$166,000.00	
LG1819028	State-wide	Education, Information & Training	Fishcare Victoria Inc.	State-wide	State-wide	2yr	All Ability Clinics - Fishing is for Everyone program. Total project funding of \$115,636.36.	\$115,636.36	In-kind program support, volunteer involvement, etc. \$44,110.
1718COM0001	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2018/19 Communication and Compliance Products. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$219,055.70.	\$106,176.29	VFA in-kind project management.
LG1819052	Northern	Access & Facilities	GWM Water	Northern	Inland	1yr	Creating two new recreational fishing lakes at Rainbow and Yaaapeet. Total project funding of \$100,000.00.	\$100,000.00	GWM Water project contribution up to \$46,200.
LG1819040	Gippsland	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Gippsland Lakes	Estuarine	1yr	Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration project. Total project funding of \$100,000.00.	\$100,000.00	Annual works to improve waterway health (\$5M/year).
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. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$140,000.00.	\$84,146.83	VFA management, analysis and reporting of recreational fishery catch data: \$170,000.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
LG1819041	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Little Murray River	Inland	1yr	Increasing fish habitat in the Little Murray River - Phase Two. Total project funding of \$100,000.00.	\$62,391.82	Extensive supportive work by CMA. \$5,600 in-kind project management.
LG1819023	State-wide	Education, Information & Training	Fishcare Victoria Inc.	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	Creating Sustainable Anglers & Empowering Angling Clubs program. Total project funding of \$51,363.64.	\$51,363.64	In-kind: \$56,760.
LG1819042	Port Phillip & Western Port	Access & Facilities	Knox City Council	Ferntree Gully	Port Phillip & Western Port	1yr	Fishing facility enhancements at Ferntree Gully Quarry Recreation Reserve. Total project funding of \$48,070.00.	\$48,070.00	Knox City Council: \$350,000.
LG1819053	Gippsland	Access & Facilities	Gippsland Ports Committee of Management	Lakes Entrance	Gippsland	1yr	Improvements to the Reeve Landing Jetty at Lakes Entrance. Total project funding of \$45,454.55.	\$45,454.55	In-kind: \$12,250.
LG1819055	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Victorian Fisheries Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Recreational fish stocking sourced from fish translocated from Goulburn Murray Water irrigation channels. \$37,000.00.	\$37,000.00	Financial: \$40,000 In-kind: \$24,000.
LG1819049	South West	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Ballarat Fish Acclimatisation Society	Ballarat	Inland	1yr	Rapid Sand Filtration System to improve fish survival rates. Total project funding of \$18,518.31.	\$18,518.31	In-kind \$30,000.
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. 2nd year and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$29,649.09.	\$16,122.91	Total financial and in-kind contributions from MCWA = \$29,500.
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.
LG1819058	South West	Access & Facilities	City of Greater Geelong	Geelong	Marine	1yr	Refurbishment of the Rippleside Jetty in Geelong. Total project funding of \$14,739.55.	\$14,739.55	Financial: \$11,000 In-kind: \$5,000
16/17/63	State-wide	Research	Nature Glenelg Trust	State-wide	Marine & Estuarine	3yr	A state-wide recreational tagging program to investigate mulloway movements. 3rd year and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$51,272.73.	\$14,552.72	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.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
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. 2nd year and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$21,938.18.	\$11,825.46	Various in-kind: \$30,920.
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). Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$109,090.91.	\$10,909.09	Anticipated dollar for dollar contribution of in-kind Fishcare volunteer effort to match this grant.
16/17/97	Northern	Research	DELWP, Arthur Rylah Institute	Northern	Inland	2yr	Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program – Phase 2. Balance of funding Total project funding of \$105,454.54.	\$10,545.45	\$60,000 from Target One Million program to fund 2 annual wild trout fishing conferences. VFA project management - \$15,200.
16/17/94	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.	\$10,000.00	DELWP: \$300,000 over 3 years. Victorian Fisheries Authority: \$200,000 over 3 years (2016/17, 2017/18 & 2018/19).
LG1718113	Gippsland	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	East Gippsland CMA	East Gippsland	Estuarine	1yr	Improving Instream Habitat for Key Recreational Species in the Snowy River. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00.	\$10,000.00	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. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$97,768.18.	\$9,776.82	Fishcare \$6,000+ financial and \$26,000+ in-kind.
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.
LG1718124	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. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$80,000.00.	\$8,000.00	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
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. 2nd year and balance of funding. Total project funding of \$31,345.45.	\$7,290.91	Deakin University in-kind: \$14,350.
1415/40/	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.
15/16/30	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. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$69,944.55.	\$6,994.45	\$10,000 per annum co-funding for salary support. Volunteer labour contribution of anglers, 2000 hours @\$25 per hour = \$50,000.
16/17/70	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Wild Trout Fisheries - Upper Goulburn Instream Habitat Enhancement. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$65,681.82.	\$6,568.18	State Government funded Angler Riparian Partnership Program - \$100,000 over 4 years.
LG1718120	Port Phillip & Western Port	Access & Facilities	Corinella Foreshore Reserve Inc.	Corinella	Marine	1yr	Stair Access to Corinella Foreshore. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$64,909.09.	\$6,490.91	Corinella Foreshore Reserve Inc. \$14,240.
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	
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. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$50,936.37.	\$5,093.64	Various in-kind: \$28,000.
LG1718111	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Lower Goulburn River: Re-snagging for native fish habitat. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$40,763.64.	\$4,076.36	The GBCMA will provide project management.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding	Other contributions/comments
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: AGDAC \$1,500.00.
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.
LG17/18/140	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Rubicon River	Inland	1yr	Rubicon River Fish Habitat Enhancement Project. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$22,272.73.	\$2,227.27	The 4-year (\$100,000) State Government funded Angler Riparian Partnership Program complement this project.
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 several complimentary riparian restoration projects (including fencing, weed control and re-vegetation).
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. Balance of 10% of funding. Total project funding of \$20,191.04.	\$2,019.11	The WGCMA will contribute \$3,118.50 to produce a promotional video for the project.
LG17/18/137	South West	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	South West	Inland	1yr	Merri River Fish Habitat Hotspot - Stage 2 Platypus Park. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$12,510.00.	\$1,251.00	GHCMA: \$7,500 Various in-kind: \$3,100.
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	\$1,827,640.37	

Other items

Project No.	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	2018/19 Core funding. Total project funding of \$225,939.60. Balance of 10% funding.	\$22,593.96	Nil financial contributions.
							Sub-total	\$22,593.96	
							Sub-total	\$1,850,234.33	

Proposal to fund RFL sales commission not claimed

	Proposal	Funding
		\$12,213.17
		Excludes RFL sales commission receipts not submitted by licence sellers.
	Sub-total	\$12,213.17
	Sub-total	\$1,862,447.50

Note 5 - Cash assets

Cash as at 30 June 2019 of **\$10,519,406.92** shown in the financial statement includes \$2,510,209 which has been invested pursuant to Section 151B(5) *Fisheries Act 1995*.

Note 6 - Payable to Victorian Fisheries Authority

The Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account is administered by the Department of Transport. The Victorian Fisheries Authority administers the Recreational Fishing Licence Program and manages the amounts determined by the Minister for Fishing and Boating for the purpose of improving recreational fishing.

This financial process can lead to timing differences in the recognition of disbursements funded from the Trust by the Victorian Fisheries Authority and the reimbursement of the expenses from the Trust at the end of a reporting period. The process to recover expenses incurred on behalf of the Trust by the Victorian Fisheries Authority is to draw down funds to cover any expenditure reimbursed from the Trust. The Victorian Fisheries Authority will recognise this reimbursement as grant revenue. The Department of Transport will recognise the reimbursement from the Trust as grant expense.

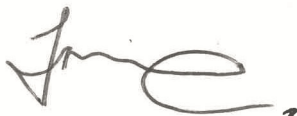
At 30 June 2019 the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust had timing differences in grants drawn and payables to the Victorian Fisheries Authority of \$4,553,310.85 which represents disbursements by the Victorian Fisheries Authority during the reporting period on expenses funded by the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust but not yet reimbursed by the Trust at the balance date.

Statutory Certification

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

I further state that, in my opinion, the information set out in the Receipts and Disbursements Report and notes to the financial report, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2019.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority
15 November 2019



Paul Younis
Secretary
Department of Transport
15 November 2019

Independent Audit Report from Auditor-General



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Secretary of the Department of Transport

Opinion	<p>I have audited the special purpose financial report of the Recreational Fishing License Trust (the trust) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• financial report as at 30 June 2019• 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 Trust Account for the year ended 30 June 2019 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. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the trust in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</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>
Emphasis of Matter - 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 responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Secretary of the Department of Transport 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 Transport has determined that the financial report is appropriate to the needs of the Minister for Fishing and Boating.</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 trust'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.

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.

MELBOURNE
21 November 2019



Bill Gilhooly
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Customer Service Centre **136 186**

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