

4 March 2022

Travis Dowling  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

Via email: [travis.dowling@vfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:travis.dowling@vfa.vic.gov.au)

Dear Travis

## **PARKS VICTORIA FEEDBACK ON DRAFT CORNER INLET FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Thank you for your letter received 29 December 2021, inviting Parks Victoria to comment on the draft Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan. As the responsible manager for extensive parks in and around Corner Inlet, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), we welcome the opportunity to provide constructive input.

Firstly, congratulations on the plan. It draws together the interests, issues and actions well.

In terms of feedback, there are two areas we would like to comment on, as explained below.

### **1. Presence and role of MPAs within Corner Inlet**

The MPAs within Corner Inlet, and their status and regulations are presented well in section 2.4.3. We feel that their presence and consideration should also be represented at key points elsewhere in the plan, including:

- **Action 15 - Promote stakeholder participation in decision making:** A sub-action is added along the lines of: *“15(v) Ensure values and issues associated with Corner Inlet’s no-take marine protected areas are considered and represented in VFA decision-making processes.”*
- **Action 16 - Achieve compliance with legislation:** Two sub-actions are added along the lines of: *“16(iii) VFA to work with PV to educate on MPA boundaries and regulations”, and “16(iv) VFA to work with PV on education and prosecution for illegal fishing activities (commercial and/or recreational) within Corner Inlet’s MPAs.”*
- **Section 5.1.2, table 4:** include MPAs within Management Zones section of table, as the MPAs constitute different regulation zones within the inlet.
- **Section 5.2.2, table 5:** include MPAs within Management Zones section of table (as above).
- **Section 8:** in the dot point list second paragraph, add reference to education and compliance for fishing exclusion from Corner Inlet MPAs.

## 2. Potential bycatch mortality impacts of mesh/gill nets

In considering the total fauna and ecosystems within this Ramsar site, we agree with the efforts needed to document but also reduce potential bycatch mortalities associated with the deployment of mesh nets within the inlet, as stated in actions 8(i), 8(ii) and referenced in table 6, item 3a. Potential risk to non-target species requires greater knowledge, coupled with strategies to reduce potential mortalities. To this end, an action seeking implementation of such strategies [add an 8(iii)] would strengthen the plan.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment and we trust that these comments are helpful.

Should you require further input or discussion on this plan, please contact Parks Victoria's Chief Conservation Scientist, Dr Mark Norman on 0409 739 645 or via email at [mark.norman@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:mark.norman@parks.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Jackson  
Chief Executive Officer