



Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account 2020-21

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



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Cover image: A barge being loaded with woody habitat which was installed around the mouths of the Nicholson and Tambo rivers by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority in a project that will aid the recovery of the Gippsland Lakes as a key recreational fishery and benefit populations of black bream, bass and estuary perch.

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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, 2020-21

Every year the revenue that is collected from the sale of Recreational Fishing Licences is paid into the Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account, and the funds are then used for a range of programs and projects that make substantial improvements to recreational fishing in Victoria.

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 Licence Trust Advisory Committee has continued to provide valuable advice on how RFL funds should be disbursed through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

In August 2021, I announced that over \$527,682 (GST exclusive) will be allocated to 9 new projects through the 2020-21 round of the Large Grants Program. These projects include continuation of the Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management program, an upgrade of the jetty at Pritchards Landing on the Glenelg River, and habitat restoration in the Gippsland Lakes, Little Murray River, Waranga Basin, and several locations on the Goulburn River.

A further \$397,749 was allocated via the Commissioning Grants Program; \$259,749 to produce a range of popular education and communication products that assist recreational anglers to understand and comply with fishing regulations, and \$138,000 for the monitoring of recreational fisheries at key locations in Port Phillip Bay, Western Port, the Gippsland Lakes, Corner Inlet and the coastal Lakes Entrance fishery.

This year has also seen the introduction of a new Intermediate Grants Application, through which the Association of Geelong and District Angling Clubs received \$38,864 to install solar lighting along the rock wall at St Helens in Geelong, which is a very popular land-based fishing location

The number of applications received through the Small Grants Program has been impacted by COVID-19 associated restrictions and public health directions in the last 12-months, however over \$35,000 was still provided for projects during 2020-21. This program has now funded over 400 projects worth more than \$1 million since its inception in 2010.

During 2020-21, Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account funds were also committed or disbursed to fund:

- increased fish stocking into hundreds of lakes and rivers, including iconic native species such as Murray cod, golden perch and Australian bass, and the highly sought brown trout, rainbow trout and chinook salmon.
- the deployment of Fisheries Officers to boost enforcement and education and protect our valuable fisheries;
- programs and projects to get more Victorians fishing, which has included even more fish stocking as well as improved access on the Barwon River and new fish cleaning facilities at the Warmies, and Lake Purrumbete.
- 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; and
- the costs incurred in the administration of the Recreational Fishing Licence and Grants Program, including Recreational Fishing Licence commissions paid to sellers.

I'm sure that all recreational fishers would be very happy to know that money from their licence goes towards increased fish stocking, better facilities, improved habitat, fisheries research, and more enforcement and education. It goes a long way towards keeping recreational fishing in Victoria in great shape and preserving it for future generations to enjoy.

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 2020-21.



The Hon Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Fishing and Boating
15 November 2021

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 (VFA) 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 VFA also administers the Recreational Fishing Grants Program and provides support to the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee 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 2020-21 financial year is the twentieth 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 2020-21.

Enforcement & Education

In 2020-21, RFL Trust Account receipts contributed \$1,991,420 to the VFA'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 56,700 total contacts were made with recreational fishers by Fisheries Officers during the reporting period. Compliance contacts with Fisheries Officers totalled over 49,260, 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 4 angling club meetings, conducted 4,796 advisory contacts with recreational fishers and over 2,655 contacts during recreational fishing related shows, forums, clinics and events.

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

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

The VFA in conjunction with the recreational fishing community strives to achieve high levels of voluntary compliance 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 | 1,341 | 178 | 32 | 99 | 127 | 7 |
| Abalone (intertidal zone) | 284 | 114 | 25 | 97 | 136 | 1 |
| Abalone (other waters) | 469 | 51 | 6 | 36 | 23 | 1 |
| Bass yabbies | 40 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Bay & Inlet - other | 3,961 | 273 | 63 | 63 | 89 | 1 |
| Bay & Inlet - Gippsland Lakes | 572 | 43 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 0 |
| Bay & Inlet - Lakes Tyers | 103 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Bay & Inlet - Snowy River | 72 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Bay & Inlet - Port Phillip | 13,893 | 852 | 175 | 394 | 351 | 1 |
| Bay & Inlet - Western Port | 1,781 | 144 | 24 | 57 | 57 | 1 |
| Corner Inlet | 1,177 | 71 | 28 | 21 | 12 | 0 |
| Estuary | 1,949 | 166 | 50 | 73 | 54 | 1 |
| Freshwater | 7,374 | 579 | 180 | 220 | 134 | 0 |
| Golden perch | 2,720 | 123 | 41 | 49 | 30 | 0 |
| Intertidal - other | 267 | 72 | 14 | 32 | 44 | 0 |
| Intertidal - pipis | 668 | 35 | 11 | 17 | 10 | 0 |
| Intertidal - Port Phillip | 202 | 72 | 29 | 41 | 26 | 0 |
| Intertidal - red shore crab | 127 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| Marine Parks | 381 | 201 | 30 | 46 | 148 | 0 |
| Murray cod | 2,342 | 165 | 54 | 51 | 59 | 0 |
| Ocean | 5,228 | 337 | 72 | 139 | 106 | 2 |
| Rock lobster | 369 | 19 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| Salmonids | 1,419 | 88 | 18 | 30 | 38 | 0 |
| Sand crabs | 240 | 23 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Scallops | 49 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spearfishing | 536 | 27 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 0 |
| Spider crab | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spiny Cray | 640 | 56 | 17 | 28 | 18 | 0 |
| Squid - cephalopods | 462 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| Tourism Operators | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trout cod | 25 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuna | 427 | 16 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Yabbies - freshwater | 110 | 27 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| Totals | 49,264 | 3,758 | 916 | 1,562 | 1,536 | 15 |

Snobs Creek Fish Production and Stocking

In 2020-21, RFL Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,440,580 to the VFA's fish production and stocking budget. This includes \$781,314.61 of the base amount of \$920,000 (approved by the Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group in May 2012, ongoing) to support fish production and stocking from Snobs Creek, and an additional \$1,659,265.45 from the Go Fishing Victoria initiative to boost fish stocking to over 8.3 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 2020-21 the VFA grew 617,500 native fish and 1,265,693 salmonid fish that were stocked into public waters. In addition to these fish the VFA purchased 6,494,228 mixed species of fish that were picked up and delivered to various locations across the state.

During 2020-21 VFA staff associated with the production and delivery of fish carried out activities such as:

- management of broodstock across all species;
- harvesting of eggs from all species;
- feeding fish of all ages;
- careful movement of fish as they develop;
- animal health monitoring and management; and
- our stocking vehicles travelled 215,146 km's which took 477 person days to undertake

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

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

| Species | Barwon South West | Gippsland | Grampians | Hume | Loddon Mallee | Port Phillip | Grand Total |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Australian Bass | 5,000 | 362,750 | - | - | - | 1,000 | 368,750 |
| Dusky Flathead | - | 47,000 | - | - | - | - | 47,000 |
| Estuary Perch | - | 284,100 | - | - | - | - | 284,100 |
| Golden Perch | 450,000 | - | 161,000 | 1,222,800 | 1,174,500 | 50,000 | 3,058,300 |
| Macquarie Perch | - | - | - | 54,000 | - | - | 54,000 |
| Murray Cod | 659,993 | - | 113,000 | 1,173,645 | 865,300 | 42,000 | 2,853,938 |
| Silver Perch | - | - | 75,000 | 45,332 | 182,000 | 83,000 | 385,332 |
| Trout Cod | - | - | - | 20,300 | - | - | 20,300 |
| Natives Total | 1,114,993 | 693,850 | 349,000 | 2,516,077 | 2,221,800 | 176,000 | 7,071,720 |
| Brown Trout | 104,400 | 124,500 | 72,610 | 312,553 | 92,878 | 10,500 | 717,441 |
| Cheetah Trout | 1,251 | - | - | - | - | - | 1,251 |
| Chinook Salmon | 102,200 | - | - | - | - | - | 102,200 |
| Rainbow Trout | 109,300 | 81,000 | 57,850 | 84,092 | 90,405 | 60,905 | 483,552 |
| Tiger Trout | 1,257 | - | - | - | - | - | 1,257 |
| Salmonids Total | 318,408 | 205,500 | 130,460 | 396,645 | 183,283 | 71,405 | 1,305,701 |
| Total | 934,745 | 521,800 | 610,704 | 2,132,636 | 1,696,593 | 235,550 | 8,377,421 |

Go Fishing Victoria

In 2020-21, RFL Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,118,404 towards the VFA's implementation of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative to grow participation and provide more fishing opportunities.

RFL Trust Account receipts, when added to state government funding, contribute significantly to the delivery of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative. The State Government has extended its commitment to recreational fishers in Victoria, with Phase 2 of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative. The renewed plan invests over \$35 million to continue to grow participation and fishing opportunities around the state.

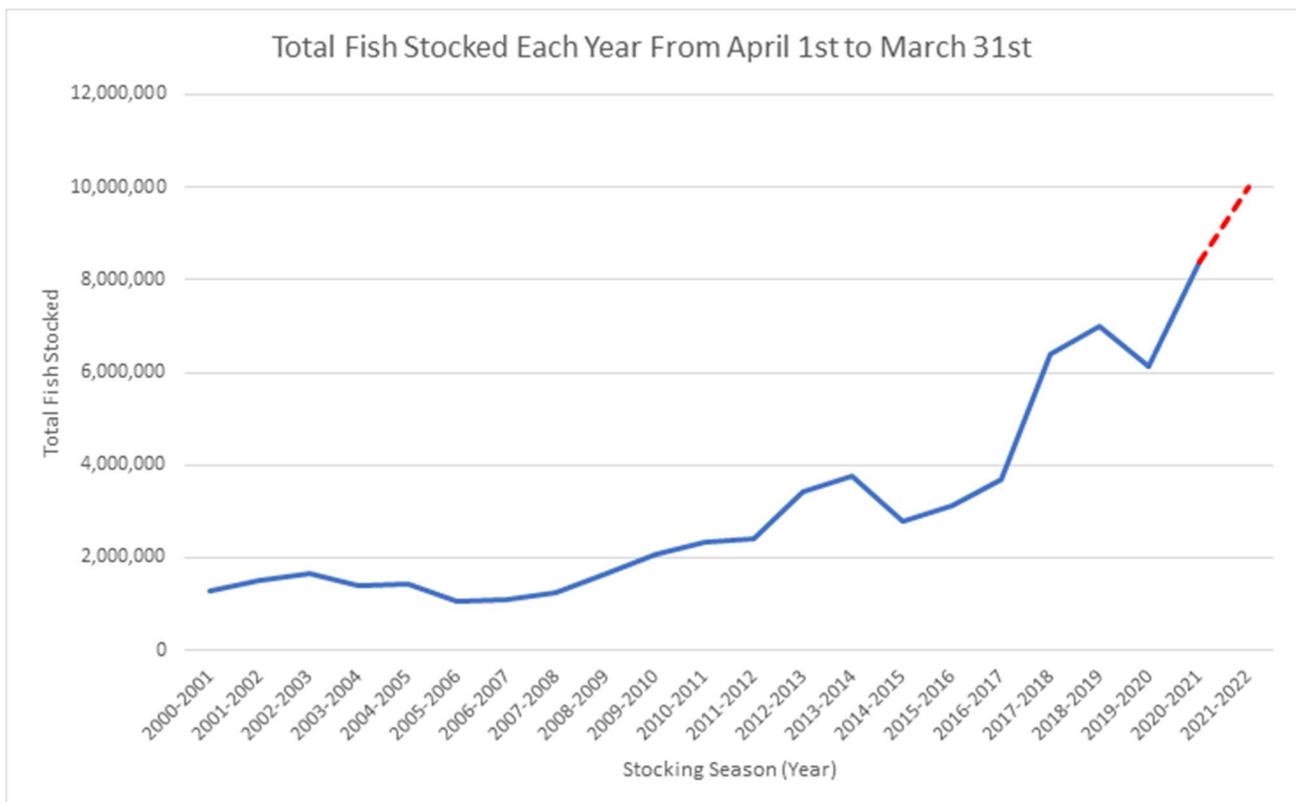
The RFL investment has contributed significantly to several aspects of the plan including improved access, fish stocking, events and engagement, the Go Fish Vic app, and the rock lobster tagging program. A summary of achievements in each of those areas is presented below.

Improved Access for Anglers

A total of \$283,382 has been spent on improving access in 2020-21. A highlight of this year has been improvements to access at multiple locations on the Barwon River and improvements to fish cleaning facilities at the Warmies and Lake Purrumbete.

Fish Stocking

In 2020-21 the VFA celebrated yet another record stocking year having stocked 8.3 million fish into Victorian waters, keeping us on track to stock 10 million fish per year by April 2022. This year \$1.66 million of Go Fishing Victoria RFL dollars purchased an additional 3 million fish that were stocked into Victorian waterways.



Events and Engagement

2020-21 was a challenging year for all of Victoria dealing with the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions and public health directions. This impacted the VFA's ability to support the recreational fishing community through its regular engagement forums. As a high performing and innovative organisation the VFA didn't let these challenges stop our engagement with the recreational fishing community, we adapted to host virtual conferences and held small in person events where permitted.

The Women in Recreational Fishing (WIRF) Network continues to inspire more females to give fishing a go. We currently have over 3,000 members in the group. The VFA eagerly look forward to continuing the annual WIRF Leadership Program held at Australian Fishing Trade Association Trade show in 2022 following postponement in 2020 and 2021. The Leadership Program offers WIRF leaders the opportunity to share their views and ideas with some of the fishing industries most influential leaders.

The Go Fishing Victoria RFL investment towards this was \$88,963.

GoFishVic App

The GoFishVic app is a new way of recording recreational fishing data that will allow fishery managers to make more informed decisions about fish stocks into the future. During 2020-21 the application has been rolled out to several angling clubs to encourage anglers to enrol and start recording data for the waters that they fish. We have about 2800 users and around 20 angling clubs who have recorded 5000 fish captures across Victorian waters.

Rock Lobster Tagging Program

On the back of the success of the three-year trial introduced in 2017, the Minister for Fishing and Boating committed in 2020 to transition the rock lobster tagging trial to an ongoing program. This commitment recognises the importance of data collected under the program in improving the accuracy of annual stock assessments and building our capacity to make robust fishery management decisions to maintain a healthy, sustainable and well managed fishery into the future.

Over the past 12 months the VFA has worked closely with the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), and a dedicated Rock Lobster Tagging Program Steering Committee to undertake a thorough review of the program. Based on the recommendations from this work we are excited to launch phase two of the rock lobster tagging program.

Reporting of rock lobster remains mandatory and phase two of the program seeks to streamline the process for catch reporting through adopting digital tags. This will remove the requirement for fishers to order, possess and affix plastic tags to rock lobster catch. Transitioning to allocating digital tags against a rock lobster catch will reduce the plastic footprint of the program and allow fishers to upload a photo of their catch.

The new reporting program is embedded into the new GoFishVic App providing increased functionality. This includes the ability to view weather reports, add photos, create groups, share catch details via social media, view personal catch statistics and report data on all species.

Financial Report

Report concerning how amounts paid into the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account were disbursed in 2020-21 financial year

| Receipts 2020-21 | | \$ |
|--|----------------|---|
| Total receipts from Recreational Fishing Licence sales | \$9,138,292.54 | |
| 250,760 RFL's sold including: 37,568 three-year licences, 117,944 one-year licences, 7,044 28-day licences, 88,191 three-day licences and 13 48-hour licences. | | |
| Interest – investments | \$7,255.50 | <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 | \$4,832.36 | Project SG767 Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs. 2020 Ron Nelson Memorial Junior Fishing Clinic. \$3,212.36 Project LG19/20/30 Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs. Solar Light at St Helens rock wall. \$1,460.00 Project SG750 Deakin University. Mulloway stock assessment. \$160.00 |
| GST Receipts | \$0.00 | |
| Total receipts for the year | \$9,150,380.40 | |

| Disbursements 2020-21 | | \$ |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects | \$807,937.07 | Payments to 36 projects - see Note 2. |
| Go Fishing Victoria Implementation | \$2,118,404.37 | |
| Fisheries Enforcement & Education Branch | \$1,991,420.28 | |
| Fish Stocking | \$781,314.61 | |
| The purchase and stocking of native and salmonid fish. | | |
| VRFish | \$443,424.53 | |
| Fishcare Victoria Inc. | \$233,686.61 | |
| Community Information | \$65,524.07 | |
| Recreational Fishing Grants Program/Recreational Fishing Licence disbursement reporting related advertising & publicity. | | |
| Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) 6% sales commissions | \$27,139.35 | |
| Applicable to sales commissions incurred during 2019-20, paid in 2020-21 financial year. | | |
| Costs and expenses incurred in the administration of RFLs | | |
| Salaries and on-costs. | \$405,743.36 | |
| Business, corporate & other levies (common domain access levy, OH&S levy, training & development levy, centre leader levy, accommodation, workstation and computer lease costs). | \$62,062.02 | |
| Professional and contract services. | \$89,921.92 | |
| Agency labour hire. | \$42,115.63 | |
| Postal expenses, parking, vehicle hire, accommodation, printing, stationery, telephones, banking charges, office equipment, external learning and IT assistance. | \$19,113.25 | |
| Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee | \$28,244.11 | |
| Sitting fees, sustenance, accommodation, vehicle hire, venue hire, and personal expenses. | | |
| Snobs Creek Advisory Board | \$425.52 | |
| Sitting fees, sustenance, accommodation, vehicle hire, venue hire, and personal expenses. | | |
| Total RFL Expenses for 2020-21 | \$7,116,476.70 | |
| Timing impacts of differences between expenses and the drawdown of payments from the RFL Trust Account. | \$293.69 | |
| GST Payable | \$0.00 | |
| Total disbursements for the year | \$7,111,350.65 | |
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) | \$2,033,903.70 | |
| Cash as at 1 July 2020 | \$6,818,638.03 | |
| Cash as at 30 June 2021 | \$8,852,541.73 | Provision to fund previously approved Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects extending into 2021-22 and beyond as applicable and other items totalling \$1,742,434.61 - see Note 3. Cash balance includes \$2,544,322.90 which has been invested – see Note 4. |

Amounts are net of applicable GST

Notes to the Financial Report

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

Note 1 - Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

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

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

Funds received by the Trust include:

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

These are reported as receipts in the Financial Report.

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

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

Note 2 - Payments to Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects during 2020-21

| Projects initially announced in 2014-15 | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Large Grants Program | | |
| Assessing the sustainability of Venus Bay's recreational and commercial pipi harvest. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$71,565.00 | \$7,156.50 | University of Melbourne |
| Sub-Total | \$7,156.50 | |
| Projects initially announced in 2017-18 | | |
| Large Grants Program | | |
| Maribyrnong River Native Fishery Revival. Partial year two funding. Total project funding of \$200,000.00. | \$32,920.21 | Victorian Fisheries Authority |
| Victorian Game Fishing: knowledge, movement and best practice for catching and releasing shortfin mako sharks. Partial year two funding. Total project funding of \$145,000.00. | \$32,863.90 | Victorian Fisheries Authority |
| Fishcare - Get Hooked on Fishing App. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$97,768.18. | \$9,776.82 | Fishcare Victoria |
| Sub-Total | \$75,560.93 | |
| Projects initially announced in 2018-19 | | |
| Commissioning Grants Program | | |
| Informing sustainable management of Victoria's wild catch fisheries. Partial year one funding. Total project funding of \$166,000.00. | \$47,854.39 | Victorian Fisheries Authority |
| 2019-20 Communication and Compliance Products. Partial year one funding. Total project funding of \$300,000. | \$47,058.28 | Victorian Fisheries Authority |
| Sub-Total | \$94,912.67 | |
| Large Grants Program | | |
| All Ability Clinics - Fishing is for Everyone program. 90% instalment of year two funding. Total project funding of \$115,636.36. | \$47,945.45 | Fishcare Victoria |
| Recreational fish stocking sourced from fish translocated from Goulburn Murray Water irrigation channels. Total project funding of \$37,000.00. | \$20,000.00 | Victorian Fisheries Authority |
| Increasing fish habitat in the Little Murray River - Phase Two. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$62,391.82. | \$6,239.18 | North Central Catchment Management Authority |
| Creating Sustainable Anglers & Empowering Angling Clubs program. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$51,363.64. | \$5,136.36 | Fishcare Victoria |
| Fishing facility enhancements at Ferntree Gully Quarry Recreation Reserve. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$48,070.00. | \$4,807.00 | Knox City Council |
| Improvements to the Reeve Landing Jetty at Lakes Entrance. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$45,454.55. | \$4,545.45 | Gippsland Ports Committee of Management |
| Sub-Total | \$88,673.44 | |
| Projects initially announced in 2019-20 | | |
| Commissioning Grants Program | | |
| Informing sustainable management of Victoria's wild catch fisheries. Partial year one funding. Total project funding of \$163,000.00. | \$72,202.54 | Victorian Fisheries Authority |
| 2020-21 Communication and Compliance Products. Partial year one funding. Total project funding of \$290,000. | \$44,543.93 | Victorian Fisheries Authority |
| Sub-Total | \$116,746.47 | |
| Large Grants Program | | |
| Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00. | \$90,000.00 | East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority |
| Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program and the Victorian Wild Trout Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00. | \$90,000.00 | Australian Trout Foundation |
| Fishcare Responsible Anglers Academy. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$54,545.45. | \$49,090.91 | Fishcare Victoria |
| Katie Peters Reserve River Restoration Project, Mitta River. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$35,801.09. | \$32,220.98 | North East Catchment Management Authority |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Increasing fish habitat and fishing opportunities at Box-Pyramid Creek near Kow Swamp. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$22,034.55. (Two payments - \$19,831.09 + \$2,203.45) | \$22,034.54 | North Central Catchment Management Authority |
| Rainbow Recreational Fishing Lake Access Improvements. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$22,655.45. | \$20,389.91 | Hindmarsh Shire Council |
| Fish Castles in the King. Gippsland Lakes. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$20,909.09. | \$18,818.18 | Ozfish Unlimited |
| St Helen's solar lights along rock wall. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$20,400.00. | \$18,360.00 | Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs |
| Improving fishing accessibility, Campaspe River Rochester. 90% instalment of year one funding plus 10% balance of funding. Total project funding of \$13,976.74. (Two payments - 12,579.06 + \$1,397.67) | \$13,976.73 | North Central Catchment Management Authority |
| Sub-Total | \$354,891.25 | |
| Intermediate Grants Program | | |
| Installation of solar lights at St Helens rock wall. 90% instalment of funding. Total project funding of \$35,330.91. | \$31,797.82 | Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs |
| Sub-Total | \$31,797.82 | |
| Small Grants Program | | |
| Point Lillias Access Project | \$5,000.00 | Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs |
| Determining the stock structure of Victoria's mullocky fishery | \$5,000.00 | Deakin University |
| Multicultural Communities Fishing Program | \$4,090.91 | Migrant Information Centre |
| Calembeen Park Jetty Upgrade Project | \$3,827.82 | Hepburn Shire Council |
| Casting Pool Rendering and Water Proofing Project | \$3,676.00 | The Southern Fly Fishers |
| Ovens River Challenge | \$3,327.27 | Australian Trout Foundation |
| Ron Nelson Memorial Junior Fishing Clinic | \$3,212.36 | Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs |
| Fly Tying For The Community Project | \$3,200.00 | Northern Suburbs Fly Fishing Club |
| Reel Recovery Retreat | \$2,500.00 | Mending Casts |
| Series of Carp Fishing Events | \$2,318.18 | Ozfish Unlimited |
| Fishing Jetty Project | \$1,650.00 | Lake Bolac Angling Club |
| Get Hooked on Fishing Program | \$395.45 | Inverloch Community House |
| Sub-Total | \$38,197.99 | |
| Disbursements net of GST | \$807,937.07 | |

Note 3 - Proposal to fund 2020-21's approved Recreational Fishing Grant Program projects, and other items in 2021-22 and beyond as applicable

Proposal to fund previously approved Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects extending into 2021-22 financial year and beyond as applicable, and other items

| Project No. | Region | Project category | Proponent | Project site | Type of waters | Project duration | Proposal | Funding (Exclusive GST) | Other contributions/comments |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| CG20-211 | State-wide | Commissioning Grant | Victorian Fisheries Authority | State-wide | State-wide | 1yr | 2021-22 Communication and Compliance Products. Total project funding of \$259,749.60 | \$259,749.60 | VFA in-kind project management. |
| CM192000002 | State-wide | Commissioning Grant | Victorian Fisheries Authority | State-wide | State-wide | 1yr | 2020-21 Communication and Compliance Products. Total project funding of \$290,000.00 | \$245,456.07 | VFA in-kind project management. |
| CG20-212 | 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 \$138,000.00. | \$138,000.00 | VFA in-kind project management. |
| LG192037 | State-wide | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Victorian Fisheries Authority | State-wide | Inland | 2yr | Report cards for key native recreational fisheries. Total project funding of \$120,000.00 | \$120,000.00 | DELWP: \$328,340 and VFA: \$50,000, both over 3 years. In-kind: DELWP - \$140,000, VFA - \$120,000. |
| LG1718110 | Port Phillip & Western Port | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Victorian Fisheries Authority | Port Phillip & Western Port | Estuarine | 3yr | Maribyrnong River Native Fishery Revival. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$200,000.00. | \$105,249.72 | VFA: \$415,000, Melbourne Water: \$300,000, Parks Vic/DELWP: \$400,000. |
| CM1819002 | State-wide | Commissioning Grant | Victorian Fisheries Authority | State-wide | State-wide | 1yr | 2019-20 Communication and Compliance Products. Total project funding of \$300,000.00 | \$103,798.53 | VFA in-kind project management. |
| 2021LG15 | Gippsland | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority | Gippsland Lakes | Estuarine | 1yr | Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00 | \$100,000.00 | Annual works to improve waterway health (\$5M/year). |
| 2021LG22 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs Inc. | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Waranga Basin Fish Habitat Installation Project. Total project funding of \$100,000.00 | \$100,000.00 | VFA fish stocking commitment - \$262,500. GVAAC in-kind \$27,500. |
| CM192000001 | State-wide | Commissioning Grant | Victorian Fisheries Authority | State-wide | Marine & Estuarine | 1yr | Informing sustainable management of Victoria's wild catch fisheries. Total project funding of \$163,000.00. | \$90,797.46 | VFA in-kind project management. |

| Project No. | Region | Project category | Proponent | Project site | Type of waters | Project duration | Proposal | Funding (Exclusive GST) | Other contributions/comments |
|-------------|------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| 2021LG36 | South West | Access & Facilities | Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority | South West | Estuarine | 1yr | Pritchards Landing Jetty Replacement, Glenelg River. Total project funding of \$77,118.18 | \$77,118.18 | Parks Victoria will upgrade facilities at the site funded through Victoria's Great Outdoors program - \$2M investment within the Lower Glenelg National Park. |
| 2021LG11 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Australian Trout Foundation | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program/Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Total project funding of \$73,850.00 | \$73,850.00 | VFA in-kind contribution: \$85,000. ATF in-kind: \$85,000. |
| 2021LG33 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | North Central Catchment Management Authority | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Increasing fish habitat in the Little Murray River - Phase Three. Total project funding of \$37,264.55 | \$37,264.55 | North Central Catchment Management Authority project management costs in-kind: \$5,600. |
| 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 sharks. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$145,000.00. | \$31,749.00 | VFA financial: \$88,000 In-kind: Deakin, VRFish, volunteers - \$47,000. |
| 2021LG31 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | North Central Catchment Management Authority | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Increasing fish habitat in Pyramid Creek near Hird and Johnson Swamp. Total project funding of \$31,385.00 | \$31,385.00 | |
| 2021LG18 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Eildon Waters Habitat Enhancement. Total project funding of \$28,365.46 | \$28,365.46 | |
| 2021LG28 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Lower Goulburn River Habitat Enhancement - Wyuna. Total project funding of \$25,249.09 | \$25,249.09 | |
| LG1819055 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Victorian Fisheries Authority | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Recreational fish stocking sourced from fish translocated from Goulburn Murray Water irrigation channels. Total project funding of \$37,000.00. | \$17,000.00 | Financial: \$40,000 In-kind: \$24,000. |

| Project No. | Region | Project category | Proponent | Project site | Type of waters | Project duration | Proposal | Funding (Exclusive GST) | Other contributions/comments |
|-------------|------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| 2021LG24 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Goulburn River Habitat Enhancement - Trawool. Total project funding of \$15,570.00 | \$15,570.00 | DEWLP – Arthur Rylah Institute to compliment this project with research. |
| 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 \$150,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | FRDC \$375,000, Native Fish Strategy \$23,900, Fisheries Victoria \$36,000, PIRSA Fisheries \$30,000. |
| 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. |
| LG1819028 | State-wide | Education, Information & Training | Fishcare Victoria Inc. | State-wide | State-wide | 2yr | All Ability Clinics - Fishing is for Everyone program. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$115,636.36. | \$11,563.64 | In-kind program support, volunteer involvement, etc. \$44,110. |
| LG192015 | Gippsland | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority | Gippsland Lakes | Estuarine | 1yr | Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | Annual works to improve waterway health (\$5M/year). |
| LG192033 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Australian Trout Foundation | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program and the Victorian Wild Trout Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | VFA: \$280,000 over 3 years. ATF In-kind \$255,000. |
| LG1819052 | Northern | Access & Facilities | GWM Water | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Creating two new recreational fishing lakes at Rainbow and Yaapeet. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00. | \$10,000.00 | 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. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00. | \$10,000.00 | Annual works to improve waterway health (\$5M/year). |

| Project No. | Region | Project category | Proponent | Project site | Type of waters | Project duration | Proposal | Funding (Exclusive GST) | Other contributions/comments |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| 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 – Ta rFISH. |
| 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. |
| LG192007 | State-wide | Education, Information & Training | Fishcare Victoria Inc. | State-wide | State-wide | 1yr | Fishcare Responsible Anglers Academy. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$54,545.45 | \$5,454.55 | In-kind \$60,000. |
| 16/17/63 | State-wide | Research | Nature Glenelg Trust | State-wide | Marine & Estuarine | 3yr | A state-wide recreational tagging program to investigate mullock movements. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$51,272.73. | \$5,127.27 | 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. |
| LG192005 | Northern | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | North East Catchment Management Authority | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Katie Peters Reserve River Restoration Project, Mitta River. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$35,801.09 | \$3,580.11 | North East Catchment Management Authority project management in-kind \$6,000 and 15 lunkers at a cost of \$4,500. |
| LG1718153 | South West | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | Deakin University | Gellibrand River | Inland | 2yr | Establishing a Southern River Blackfish spawning and recruitment monitoring network in the Gellibrand River Catchment. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$31,345.45. | \$3,134.55 | Deakin University in-kind: \$14,350. |
| 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. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$29,649.09. | \$2,964.91 | Total financial and in-kind contributions from Macedonian Community Welfare Association Inc: \$29,500. |
| LG192009 | Northern | Access & Facilities | Hindmarsh Shire Council | Northern | Inland | 1yr | Rainbow Recreational Fishing Lake Access Improvements. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$22,655.45 | \$2,265.55 | Various in-kind: \$21,000. |

| Project No. | Region | Project category | Proponent | Project site | Type of waters | Project duration | Proposal | Funding (Exclusive GST) | Other contributions/comments |
|------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| LG192008 | Gippsland | Sustainability & Habitat Improvement | OzFish Unlimited | Gippsland Lakes | Estuarine | 1yr | Fish Castles in the King. Gippsland Lakes. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$20,909.09 | \$2,090.91 | Ozfish: \$10,000 contribution for additional incurred costs. In-kind: Volunteers \$15,000, Ozfish \$17,160. |
| LG1819058 | South West | Access & Facilities | City of Greater Geelong | Geelong | Marine | 1yr | Refurbishment of the Rippleside Jetty in Geelong. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$14,739.55. | \$1,473.95 | Financial: \$11,000 In-kind: \$5,000 |
| 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. | \$800.61 | VFA in-kind project management. |
| Sub-total | | | | | | | | \$1,717,744.07 | |

Other items

| Project No. | Region | Project category | Proponent | Project site | Type of waters | Project duration | Proposal | Funding (Exclusive GST) | Other contributions/comments |
|----------------|------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Not applicable | State-wide | Not applicable | Fishcare Victoria Inc. | State-wide | State-wide | 1yr | 2020-21 Base funding. Total project funding of \$234,145.72. Balance of 10% funding. | \$23,414.57 | Nil financial contributions. |
| | | | | | | | Sub-total | \$23,414.57 | |
| | | | | | | | Sub-total | \$ 1,741,158.64 | |

Proposal to fund RFL sales commission not claimed

| Proposal | Funding (Exclusive GST) | Other contributions/comments |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | \$1,275.97 | Excludes RFL sales commission receipts not submitted by licence sellers. |
| Sub-total | \$1,275.97 | |
| Sub-total | \$1,742,434.61 | |

Note 4 - Cash assets

Cash as at 30 June 2021 of \$8,852,541.73 shown in the financial statement includes \$2,544,322.90 which has been invested pursuant to Section 151B(5) *Fisheries Act 1995*.

Statutory Certification

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

I further state that, in my opinion, the information set out in the Receipts and Disbursements Report and notes to the financial report, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2021.

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
5 / 11 / 2021



Paul Younis
Secretary
Department of Transport
5 / 11 / 2021

Independent Auditor's Report

To the The Secretary of the Department of Transport

| | |
|--|---|
| Opinion | <p>I have audited the special purpose financial report of Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account (the trust) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial report as at 30 June 2021 • notes to the financial report for the year then ended • 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 2021 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 <i>APES 110 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, 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> |

| | |
|--|---|
| Other Information | <p>The Secretary of the Department of Transport is responsible for the Other information, which comprises the information in the trust’s annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021 but does not include the financial report and my auditor’s report thereon.</p> <p>My opinion on the financial report does not cover the Other information and accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the Other information. However, in connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the Other information and in doing so, consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the financial report or the knowledge I obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the Other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p> |
| The 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 and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made 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
9 November 2021



Simone Bohan
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Customer Service Centre **136 186**

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