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Minister for Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation Portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

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Jobs, Skills,
Industry
and Regions

State of the Portfolio

Victorians are significantly involved in outdoor recreation.

- ▶ Around **1 million** recreational fishers, creating over **20,000** jobs.
- ▶ **417,000** Victorians hold recreational fishing vessel licences.
- ▶ **574** commercial fishing licences with an annual product value of around **\$48 million**.
- ▶ **104** aquaculture licences with an annual product value of around **\$53 million**.
- ▶ In 2018-19, the recreational boating industry has supported the creation of **22,055** jobs across Victoria, adding nearly **\$8 billion** in economic value.



State of the Portfolio

Victorians are significantly involved in outdoor recreation.

- ▶ Victoria's **55,000**-plus licensed game hunters make a significant economic contribution to the state - especially in regional Victoria.
- ▶ In 2019, hunting activities contributed **\$356 million** to the economy, generating around **3,100** full-time equivalent jobs.
- ▶ Deer hunting supports the largest amount of economic activity, contributing over **\$200 million** to the economy in 2019, with duck and quail hunting supporting almost **\$90 million**.



Our Achievements – Fishing and Boating



Our investments are providing Victorians with a variety of fishing and boating opportunities across the State

- ➔ Boat ramp upgrades:
 - ▶ completed at **13** locations.
 - ▶ more underway or commencing including at Maher's Landing, Lake Burrumbeet, Clifton Springs, St Leonards, Lake Boga and Inverloch.
- ➔ **\$10 million** upgrade of Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery and **\$5 million** expansion of Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery underway, with construction commencing in 2024-25.
- ➔ The Target One Million and Go Fishing Victoria plans, along with our Better Boating initiatives – worth **\$232 million** since 2014 - have helped grow the number of recreational fishers in Victoria to more than **1 million**.
- ➔ Fish stocking increased to **10 million** annually across **245** Victorian waterways.
- ➔ Delivered **95,000** Little Angler Kits to grade **5** students across Victoria.
- ➔ Extensive program of community events to educate on recreational fishing and boating and promote environmental sustainability.

Our Achievements – Recreational Hunting



We are committed to safe, responsible and sustainable hunting

- ➔ Delivery of the Sustainable Hunting Action Plan to enable safe, responsible and sustainable hunting across the state.
- ➔ Partnering with Traditional Owners to deliver the Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy and build First Peoples' participation in hunting, land management and conservation.
- ➔ Active monitoring by Game Officers continues year-round with **89** completed investigations and **517** proactive patrols conducted across forests, wetlands and waterways and on private and public land across Victoria, this financial year.
- ➔ **6,751** new game licences and renewed **24,027** with all licences, permits and authorities issued within the target period of **15** working days.
- ➔ Published **8** comprehensive and interactive online education modules including more than **45** educational videos and tools.

Outdoor Recreation Budget Initiatives

We are committed to enabling safe, responsible and sustainable recreational hunting in Victoria

2024-25 Budget includes funding of **\$11.6 million** over **3** years:

- ▶ **\$6.9 million** over **3** years to support the compliance and enforcement work of the Game Management Authority
- ▶ **\$4.7 million** over **3** years towards the review of game hunting regulations and to support the government's common-sense changes to ensure hunting remains safe, sustainable and responsible including:
 - ▶ An Adaptive Harvest Management Strategy and Framework.
 - ▶ Enhancements to compliance and enforcement regulations.
 - ▶ The Waterfowl Wounding Reduction Action Plan.
 - ▶ Mandatory hunter education and training, including cultural awareness training.

