## **Steve Dimopoulos MP** Minister for Outdoor Recreation

## **Outdoor Recreation Portfolio**

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

27 May 2024



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

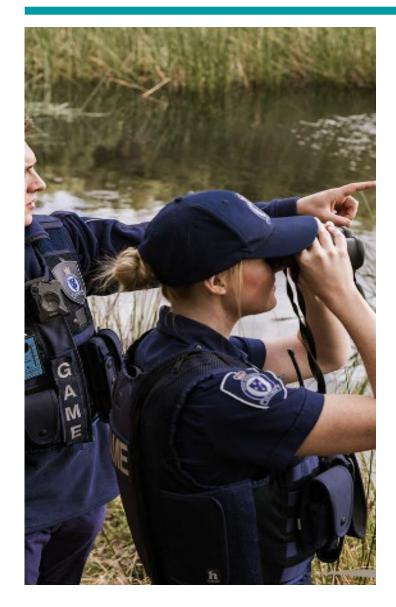


# Our investments are providing Victorians with a variety of fishing and boating opportunities across the State

- 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**

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#### 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.

