

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Fishing and Boating
Witness:	Hon Melissa Horne MP
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
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Question:

So for context, last year we asked whether the government was actually anywhere near its Target One Million. I am a little bit sceptical; PAEC was told last year that it would be available in October 2019 and we still have not got it. Perhaps, Minister, if I can ask you to take it on notice to provide an explanation to the committee as to why that information is not available. Are you happy to do that?

Answer:

Thank you for your question about recreational fishing participation in Victoria.

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting recreational fishing throughout the state and understand its importance to the Victorian economy. By increasing fish stocking, restoring the health of our waterways by ending commercial netting in Port Phillip Bay and Gippsland Lakes or through programs such as Golden Tag, we are encouraging more Victorians to get out fishing, more often.

In relation to the EY Study, the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) advised of a discrepancy between recreational fishing licences sold and the recreational fishing participants determined in the most recent study.

There are several groups, such as those under 18, those over 70 or those that identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, who are not required to purchase a licence. Therefore, some degree of discrepancy is to be anticipated when comparing recreational fishing licence sales to general participation overall.

VFA did consider that further analysis was required to greater capture recreational fishing participation in Victoria, and this further analysis is currently being conducted to this end.

Once completed, the EY study will be published online.



Hon Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Fishing and Boating