



SUPPORT FOR MARIBRYNONG RIVER BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE FEASIBILITY PROJECT

To Whom It May Concern,

VRFish, the peak body representing 838,000 Victorian fishers, have identified a significant gap in boating access and launching infrastructure on the Maribrynong River. We fully support this funding proposal with the aim to examine the feasibility of sites for much needed boating infrastructure. It is strategically important for the growth of our sector that our fishers have safe and ongoing access to our favourite fishing species in the river.

The Maribrynong River has long been considered Melbourne's forgotten waterway despite offering fantastic and improving fishing opportunities. Currently, the river has no boating infrastructure. Boat-based fishers seeking to target estuarine fish, such as black bream and mulloway, are forced to launch and retrieve their vessel in Port Phillip Bay. The closest boat ramp is situated at 'Warmies' at the mouth of the Yarra River. Fishers who launch from this ramp must then navigate their small vessel upstream through the busy Port of Melbourne to access their fishing spots on the Maribrynong River.

VRFish is also supporting the Victorian Fisheries Authority in re-establishing an estuary perch fishery in the river through a stocking program. With an aim to encourage more Victorian fishers to go fishing and more often, this exciting new sportsfishing opportunity at the city's doorstep is further impetus to plan for, and build the infrastructure needed on the Maribrynong. This new initiative is only possible today due to the significant improvement in water quality and catchment practices.

Mr. Russell Conway, VRFish's Metropolitan Anglers Association representative and Board member can be contacted on 0419 320 843 for further information and support regarding the implementation of the proposed project. We look forward to working closely and constructively with other project sponsors and key stakeholders on the site feasibility project.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Robert Loats
Chairman
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

30 January 2018