



Mornington Peninsula Shire  
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To Whom It May Concern,

### **Hastings Foreshore Precinct Plan**

I am writing on behalf of VRFish, the peak body representing Victoria's 838,000 recreational fishers. Several of our members attended the Mornington Peninsula Shire's drop-in session at Hastings on 21 September 2017. We appreciate the effort that has gone into the public consultation of the plan to ensure that the plan meets the needs of users.

The Hastings Boat Ramp is an extremely important facility because along with Stoney Point it services the entire western margin of Western Port Bay as the only public boat launching facilities. The growth in boating registrations and the improvements to the recreational fishery in Western Port Bay since the commercial fishing licence buyback a few years ago means that the demand on this facility can be expected to continue to grow at peak times. It is for this reason that several of our members attended the meeting and taking a keen interest in the precinct plan.

While at face value the overall plan seems reasonable, there are significant details that need to be taken into account before finalising and implementing the plan. The most important of these is capacity. Capacity at boat launching facilities consists of two major elements being throughput and parking.

While there are Australian Standards that provide assistance in determining the required capacity, the reality is that every facility design is by definition a custom one to meet the specific needs of a particular location and demand profile. In the absence of empirical demand data, we believe the best option for the Hastings Foreshore Precinct Plan is to use the detailed local knowledge of the users. These users are the ones that know how the ramp operates at different times, tides and seasons and therefore they can provide invaluable advice to the designers of what causes the facility to work efficiently, or become bottlenecked.

The Westernport Angling Club and their members are best served to provide this detailed input and we therefore request that your designers incorporate the club and their expertise into the detailed planning phase as members of the design team.

One important issue to remember when balancing equity amongst foreshore users is that users of boat launching facilities have absolutely no choice over their use of the allocated foreshore area. If you want to launch your boat you must have access to the foreshore and you must be able to park nearby.

Therefore, any plans or funding applications that do not lead to an increase in capacity of the present facility would not be supported by VRFish.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Loats', written in a cursive style.

Rob Loats

Chair

**Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body**

4 October 2017

Cc: Ben Scullin, Boating Industry Association Victoria  
Bob Wilkinson, Westernport Angling Club