

**Representing  
Victorian  
Recreational  
Fishers**



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Dear Tracee,

### **FRANKSTON COAST GUARD**

I am writing on behalf of VRFish, the peak body representing Victoria's 838,000 recreational fishers.

The safety of all water users is paramount and VRFish strongly supports the Frankston City Council in your planned project to construct a Coast Guard facility and associated breakwater.

The current situation of the Frankston Coast Guard vessel being docked at Patterson River Marina is completely untenable. We believe an estimated trip time of 45 minutes to 1 hour from Patterson River Marina to the Frankston area and potential closure of storm gates at the marina represents an appalling risk to community safety and is putting lives on the line.

With 150 rescues performed by the Frankston Coast Guard last year, this is clear evidence that local infrastructure is urgently required. A safe boat refuge breakwater will allow our emergency services and first responders to perform their important work, both efficiently and safely. The whole community will benefit from this project. With adequate assessment and modelling, a breakwater can also serve as important artificial fish habitat.

We also commend the Federal Government for providing a grant of \$500,000 towards the project. We stand by our local recreational fishers and boaters in supporting new facilities and infrastructure for the Frankston Coast Guard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Loats', is written over a faint, light-colored circular stamp or watermark.

Mr. Robert Loats  
Chair  
**Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body**  
3 November 2017