



**NATIVE FISH
AUSTRALIA**

2018 Victorian Election Wish list

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Metropolitan Stocking Program

- Clear need to develop other fisheries in Metropolitan Melbourne
- Majority of Victorian population in Melbourne metropolitan area
- Help get more people fishing in Victoria
- Many possible opportunities to stock both Natives & Salmonids
- Many waterways have minor problems that inhibit development
- Need medium/long term program to assess, cleanup & stock waterways
- Long term result in cleaner & healthier metropolitan waterways with healthy recreational fish populations.

Stream Classification

- Previous Labour government policy – formulated by major stakeholders and published in 2010.
- Needs revision to take into account many changing factors including climate change & greater understanding of current fish populations across the state.
- Allow better management of fisheries across Victoria

Management of Yarra river & other Macquarie perch populations

- Yarra river population of Macquarie perch is the most important of all populations due to genetic robustness
- First established in 1850s, the population is the result of numerous translocations from populations across the state.
- Is clear evidence of the lack of larger fish within the Yarra river population (fish over the legal length of 35cm)

- Pressure on the population from recreational anglers – May be a large illegal take
- Other populations may also be at risk of illegal take especially during the closed season. These include the newly established Ovens River population and the Upper Mitta Mitta/Gibbo River population.
- Require informative signage at key access points.
- Require dedicated VFA fisheries officers for both education & enforcement particularly in spring period when Macquarie perch more susceptible to angling
- Seasonal angling closure at important locations

Opening of a limited Trout cod fishery in 2 rivers in Victoria

- Trout cod once critically endangered in Victoria
- Through actions of both Government & NGO'S now many populations across Victoria
- Need to value species via limited recreational angling
- Ovens River & Goulburn River have self-sustaining stable populations.
- Already a small fishery open in two small lakes around Beechworth
- Will need to develop regulations

Endangered Native Fish Management plan

- No current plan in Victoria for the management/stocking of endangered fish.
- Has been ad hoc at best in the past with fish stocked in many waterways without follow up investigations of populations.
- Many proposed populations only stocked once or twice and then forgotten & totally locked up from rec anglers
- Have had for species in the past but quickly disregarded

Seasonal Closure for selected rivers

- Will protect breeding endangered native fish
- Currently 4 seasonal closures to protect breeding salmonoids
- Only closed seasons for the capture of endangered native fish
- Clear evidence of detrimental effect of capture on breeding fish & susceptibility to angling of some species during breeding

Overhaul RFL grants procedure and committee structure

- Present structure/arrangement is secretive and out of date
- Chair need to be totally independent
- Needs representatives from significant recreational fishing groups
- Decisions made by committee need to be transparent and justifiable
- RFL moneys shared with other major representative groups ie the ATF & NFA (Vic)
- Access to medium & large grants multiple times per year
- Increase small grant maximum to \$15000

Reopen Seven Creeks to Recreational angling

- Section totally closed to recreational angling in 1973 to protect the last Victorian population of Trout cod.
- Need a plan for future actions including timeline
- Breed & stock genetically suitable Macquarie perch & Trout cod
- When population of both species stable and self sustaining, open a limited fishery.

Funding for Recreational Angling

- Renew similar to “Target 1 million”
- Plan and build “Centre of excellence for endangered native fish ecology and production” managed by Native Fish Australia (Vic).
- Recurrent funding for above centre & other NFA (Vic) activities