

Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy

District Priorities Survey

Results - July 2021



Confirming District Boating Priorities

We know boaters want better facilities and access, less congestion, better facility maintenance, and transparency of funding used for facilities. That's why we are developing a Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy that will address long-standing issues in this sector and underpin prioritisation of future recreational boating investment.

As a Victorian first, this strategy will provide the road map for future investment and the boating community will have a chance to help us shape it.

The Victorian Government has passed legislation to establish the Better Boating Fund that will return every dollar of marine licensing and boat registration fees to improving boating safety and facilities. The Fund became operational in July 2021.

The Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy will inform how the [Better Boating Fund](#) will be allocated. And that's why we'll be working closely with the boating community to understand what they believe are the priorities for Victoria.

A Ministerial Boating Round Table has also been established to assist with the planning and development of the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy that will be released shortly.

What we did

We are developing the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy with boaters. As a first step, we ran an online consultation from Friday 29 January - 20 February 2021 to find out what they believe are the boating priorities across Victoria.

For the purposes of the consultation, we divided the State of Victoria into 8 boating districts and sought stakeholder views about the priorities for improving the boating experience across these districts.

The information captured in this consultation has helped us understand the breadth of priorities across Victoria. We then consult boaters further in April and May 2021 to confirm the boating needs within each district. Consultation findings will be incorporated with additional analysis by Better Boating Victoria to inform a draft Victorian Recreational Boating

Strategy that we will seek feedback on.



You asked

Q. What is the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy?



Legislation to establish the Better Boating Fund passed both Houses of Parliament in November 2020, delivering on an election commitment to establish a dedicated fund for boating.

The amount going into the Better Boating Fund will be equivalent of all revenue generated from marine licences and vessel registration.

The Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy will provide an overarching vision and plan to ensure our recreational boating needs are identified and prioritised, so funding is allocated in accordance with these priorities when the Better Boating Fund commenced on 1 July.

The details of the Strategy will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders and boating users.

Q. What will the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy consider?

The details of the Strategy will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders and boating users. The Strategy will aim to address priorities aligned with how the Better Boating Fund can be allocated, including:

- Provision and maintenance of boating facilities and services for the public
- Boating safety, boating education and boating promotion programs
- Safe use of recreational vessels.



The Strategy will also acknowledge that majority of Victorian recreational boats are trailerable, placing considerable pressure and demand on boat ramps. Feedback will be considered to address this challenge, including potential investment in launching and retrieval facilities (ramps).

Q. What is the objective of *Understanding Victoria's Boating Priorities* consultation?

This consultation was the first step in the strategy development process comprised of an online survey that ran between Friday 29 January – 20 February. This survey sought to understand what boaters believe are the boating priorities across Victoria.

Q. Who are you consulting and why?

Throughout the development of the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy we will be consulting with boat users and representatives from across the boating sector and asset managers.

Q. Will this consultation result in the construction of new boat ramps and better facilities?

This is likely. The need for new facilities will be identified throughout consultation with the boating community. The location of new facilities will be identified in the boating strategy.

Understanding Victoria's Boating Priorities represents the first step in the consultation process and will run from Friday 29 January – 20 February.

Q. What happened after you consulted on

Understanding Victoria's Boating Priorities?

We then run a series of face-to-face drop-in events across regional Victoria in April and May to test the priorities identified during this consultation in each region. This was supported by an online survey for those who couldn't attend face-to-face sessions.

The results of the face-to-face events

and the associated survey have been used to develop a draft Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy.



We will then release and seek public feedback on the draft Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy and use the results from this online consultation to refine the draft strategy before releasing the first ever Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy.

Q. How will stakeholders be able to have their say?

Feedback from across the boating sector is essential to helping us develop a Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy that meets community expectations.

Further information and details regarding how you can get involved are available at: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/rec-boating-strategy>

Better Boating Victoria will be promoting the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy and associated consultations and events online and through social media.

Q. How is the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy being funded?

The Strategy will be progressed by Better Boating Victoria with the Department of Transport. The Strategy will be funded from internal budgets.

Q. When will we see outcomes of the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy?

Elements of the strategy tested with the community through drop in events in April and May. The draft strategy will also be released for public consultation prior to finalising.

Q. When will we see new boat ramps and better facilities across Victoria?

Upgrades and new facilities will be prioritised, based on a framework that will be identified within the Boating Strategy. Upgrades have already commenced at Hastings, Rhyll, Mordialloc, Queenscliff and Point Richards. Furthermore, Better Boating Victoria has also provided funding for an upgrade to the North Arm boat ramp in Lakes Entrance and has commenced planning for upgrades at Cape Conran, Cowes, Limeburners, Avalon, Kirk Point, Stony Point, Mahers Landing, Werribee South and Lang Lang.

Q. What are the key elements of the Better Boating Fund?

We have listened to our stakeholders and heard that greater transparency and certainty of funding is required to improve access and support growth in recreational boating in the future. The legislation delivers on this commitment and will provide the certainty and transparency into the future.

The amount going into the Better Boating Fund (the Trust Account) is to be equivalent of all revenue generated from marine licences and vessel registration.

The Better Boating Fund guarantees that funding can only be spent on boating related facilities, services, safety and education; and establishes annual public reporting requirements to provide the transparency that our stakeholders have requested.

Q. What can the Better Boating Fund be used for?

The legislative provisions authorise the Minister or Treasurer to approve expenditure from the fund on:

- provision and maintenance of boating facilities and related services
- boating safety, boating education and boating promotion programs
- safe use of recreational vessels
- safe use of state waters

Q. When will the Better Boating Fund be established?

The operation of the Better Boating Fund commence – on 1 July 2021.

Q. Who is responsible for developing the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy?

Better Boating Victoria will lead the development of the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy.

The Strategy will be co-designed with key stakeholders, including a Ministerial Boating Round Table. We also want to hear from the broader boating community and will be engaging with boaters and seeking their feedback at key steps in the Strategy development process.

Q. Why has a Ministerial Boating Round Table been established for the Strategy?

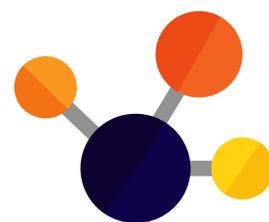


A Ministerial Boating Round Table has been established. The Round Table consists of a diverse ground of representatives from across the boating sector to help inform the development of a Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy through a co-design process, including identifying future needs and priorities.

The Round Table will not be a decision-making body.

Q. Who determined the composition of the Ministerial Boating Round Table?

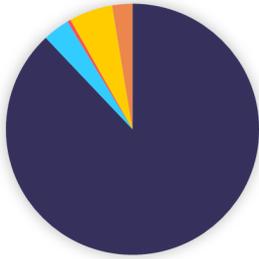
Representation from the angling, sailing and personal watercraft communities as well as the boating industry, marine search and rescue, boating facility managers, boat ramp users, waterway managers and local government will provide holistic input into the development of the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy.



Survey Response: Overview

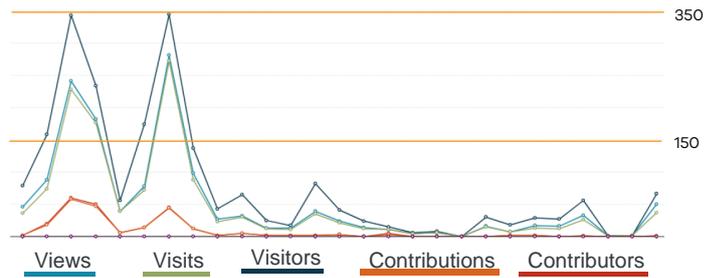
Survey was open from 21 April - 17 May 2021

Primary association with recreational boating



- **88%** I am a user of recreational boating facilities
- **6%** I represent a community group (e.g. club or association)
- **3%** Other
- **3%** I am a manager of recreational boating facilities or waterway management
- **0%** I represent an industry group

Visitors summary



Highlights

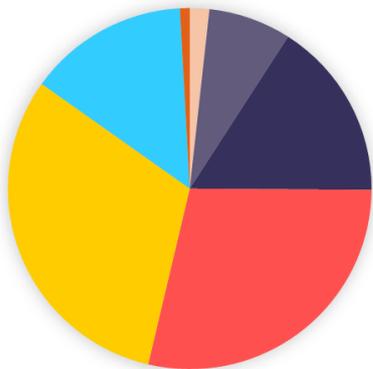
- 1.3k** Total visits
- 252** Max. visitors per day
- 224** Engaged visitors (people who took part in survey)
- 1.1k** Informed visitors
- 2.0k** Total views



Survey Response: Demographics

Response by age group

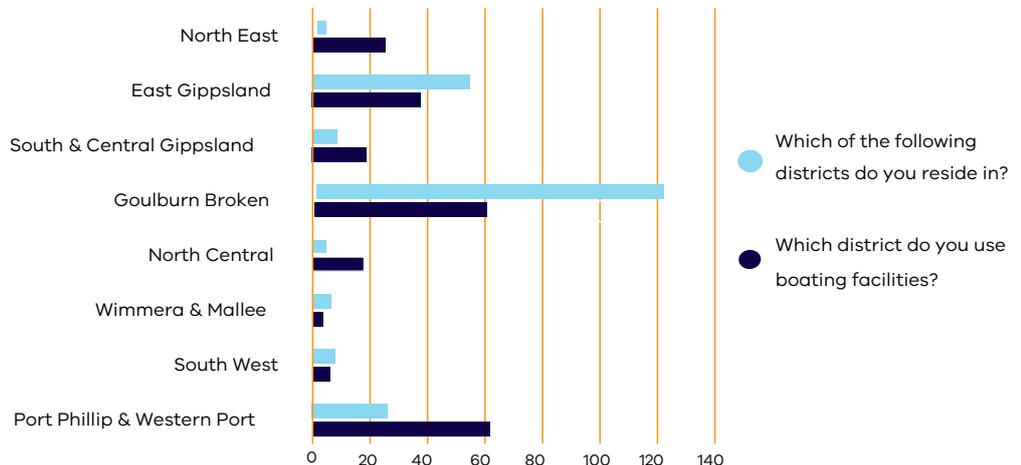
- **72** 55-64 years
- **66** 45-54 years
- **33** 65+ years
- **37** 35-44 years
- **17** 25-34 years
- **4** 16-24 years
- **2** Prefer not to say



For the purpose of developing the Recreational Boating Strategy the State has been divided into 8 boating districts based on geography and waterway management.



Survey Response: Boating District





75%

supported the new proposed locations for potential ramps in Port Phillip and Western Port

98%

supported the proposal to provide overflow car parking improvements in East Gippsland

99%

supported the new proposed locations for potential ramps in Goulburn Broken

100%

supported the proposal to provide longer pontoons and jetties at identified locations in South and Central Gippsland

100%

supported the proposed methodology for improving the maintenance and management of boating facilities in the South West

You said...

- The increase in surveillance cameras and subsequent action by authorities to address problem behaviour on the water is critical to improving on water safety and water users experience, this is critical on Lake Nagambie and the surrounding Goulburn River.
- There is a big need for a boat ramp at Howqua Inlet, to provide that part of the lake with access to water, for fishing and boating and emergency access if needed.
- I believe that all ramps/ ports that receive funding/ upgrades should have all ability access davits / aids to include those less able to go boating, thus making boating truly inclusive and not subject those requiring said davits/ aids to travel further than necessary
- The Proposal to the North Arm Jetty / Pontoon is a great idea
- Shaving point Metung definitely needs an extension
- Due to the population growth in our region it is becoming increasingly harder to launch and retrieve your vessel with parking up at a jetty or pontoon at a premium
- The License process teaches nothing about handling a boat & respect is a dying characteristic of many people these days, that people don't consider the next boat or others on the water. Education & Enforcement need to be at the top of the priority list. Education will raise much needed awareness and enforcement will back-up education and provide for a safer and pleasurable experience for all water users.

Next steps

We would like to thank everybody who took part in the **Confirming District Boating Priorities** consultation. Your feedback has helped us understand the breadth of priorities across Victoria.



The draft Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy will be released in mid-year and will seek further feedback. To find out more and have your say in the consultation visit: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/rec-boating-strategy>