CONFIRMING VICTORIA’S BOATING PRIORITIES

Goulburn Broken

betterboating.vic.gov.au
BETTER BOATING VICTORIA:

Identifying and prioritising your recreational boating requirements
Introducing the Better Boating Fund

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

We are developing the Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy to provide an overarching vision and plan to ensure our recreational boating priorities are identified and prioritised, so funding is allocated accordingly when the Better Boating Fund commences on 1 July 2021.

We have started developing the strategy and have already consulted with key stakeholders and boating users to identify the priorities. This public consultation took place between 29 January – 20 February 2021 via an online survey.

We’ve analysed your feedback and consolidated it across eight Victorian districts – this document focuses on the Goulburn Broken. We now need boaters to confirm boating priorities so we can build this into a draft Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy that we will seek feedback mid-year.

We have highlighted the priorities you have identified as important and seek your feedback on the questions presented in each priority area. You can complete these questions by visiting: engage.vic.gov.au/rec-boating-strategy
Overview of Goulburn Broken

The Goulburn Broken district extends from the Great Dividing Range near the outskirts of Melbourne to the Murray on the border with New South Wales; it covers 10.5% of Victoria. The district is home to Victoria’s longest and largest river basin, the Goulburn River and one of the largest lakes Lake Eildon.

Lake Eildon is primarily a water storage for users on the Goulburn and is the only inland waterway in Victoria that allows houseboats. It’s one of our most popular holiday destinations with approximately 700 licensed houseboats operating on the lake.

The Goulburn River offers diverse boating and recreational opportunities that attract people to enjoy fishing, canoeing/kayaking and rafting. The major source of water is Lake Eildon and these waters are used for irrigation in northern Victoria, with the balance flowing into the Murray River. The varying demand for irrigation is one of the reasons for periodic changes to the river that may impact on boating.
Economic benefits

The district supports major agriculture, forestry and fishing, and tourism industries. The major commodity is food, but wool, timber, tourism and recreation are also vitally important to the region’s economy.

The district has a growing tourism sector, complemented by recent urban industrial and residential development and has an estimated population of 204,000 people.

Recreational licensing and vessel analysis

There are 28,000+ licence holders registered in the Goulburn Broken District.

Vessel types registered in this district, there are 16,000+ in the Goulburn Broken District.
Existing access facilities

There are more than 50 formal public recreational boating facilities located across Goulburn Broken District. These facilities are primarily managed by Goulburn Murray Water as the facility and waterway manager. Other facilities are managed by Parks Victoria or Crown land committees of management, including local councils.

Popularity

Based on peak summer period, the Boating Vic website was analysed for ramp popularity with results as follows:

Boating Victoria Page Views
(Nov 2019 – Feb 2021)

High
Moderate
Low
Very Low
No Data

1. Murray R – Mill Log Landing
2. Murray R – Frenchmans
3. Murray R – Thistle Bed
4. Murray R – The Guff
5. Murray R – Double Holes
6. Murray R – Tonga Tonga
7. Murray R – Crawford
8. Murray R – The Steps
9. Murray R – Crawford
10. Murray R – Morgans Mill
11. Murray R – Dr Beach
12. Murray R – Horseshoe Bend
13. Murray R – Barmah Lakes
14. Broken Creek – Rices Bridge
15. Murray R – Barmah
16. Broken Creek – Chinamens Weir
17. Murray R – Greenbank
18. L Mulwala – Yarrawonga CP
19. L Mulwala – Woodlands
20. L Mulwala – Bank St
21. L Mulwala – Majors Lane
22. Goulburn R – Yambuya Bride
23. Goulburn R – Loch Garry
24. Goulburn R – Shepparton
25. Victoria Park Lake
26. Goulburn R – Raftery’s Bend
27. Greens Lake – Corop
28. L Cooper
29. Goulburn R – Arcadia Main
30. Waranga Basin – Lake Waranga CP
31. Waranga Basin – Western Channel
32. Waranga Basin – Sapling Point
33. Waranga Basin – Harrimans Point
34. L Nagambie – Turner Island
35. L Nagambie – Buckley Park
36. L Nagambie – Regatta Centre
37. L Nagambie – Loddings Lane
38. L Nagambie – Majors Creek Ramp
39. L Millah Cockie
40. Goulburn River – Seymour Manners St
41. Goulburn River – Seymour Trevan St
42. Goulburn River – Whiteheads Creek
43. Goulburn River – Killingsworth
44. Goulburn River – Gin Gin
45. L Eldon – Bonnie Doon Maintongoon Rd
46. L Eldon – Hutchinson Rd
47. L Eldon – Kennedy Point
48. L Eldon – Mrs Bon Bay
49. L Eldon – Howes Creek Rd
50. Goulburn R – Molesworth
51. Goulburn R – Alexandra
52. L Eldon – Colby Bay
53. L Eldon – Colby Bay Candlebark
54. L Eldon – Goughs Bay 6,7,8
55. L Eldon – Goughs Bay 9 and 4
56. L Eldon – Goughs Bay 2
57. L Eldon – Dethridge Point Alliance
58. Goulburn R – Acheron
59. Goulburn R – Eldon Pondage Wall
60. L Eldon – Jerusalem Creek
61. L Eldon – Jameson Boat
62. Goulburn R – Thornton Beach
63. L Eldon – Thornton Walnuts Res
64. Goulburn R – Thornton Pondage Wall
65. Goulburn R – Thornton Walnuts Res
Economic benefits

Future demand
As boating continues to grow in popularity, pressures on existing boating facilities are likely to increase and require improvements to facilities. Key issues for the Goulburn Broken District include the changing water levels in our storages. Reversing of vehicles can be significant during times of low water levels, which puts a stronger emphasis on throughput and circulation of traffic flow. Navigational safety signage and markers around, above and below water hazards is also particularly important for this region as varying water levels can increase risks and trigger waterway rule changes.

Goulburn Broken
Throughout various discussions, supported by feedback you gave us in a public consultation that took place between 29 January – 20 February 2021, we’ve heard that the boating experience needs to be enhanced. Improvements to recreational boating across the Goulburn Broken District include the following:

- Maintenance of facilities
- New facilities/upgraded facilities
- Facility renewal
- Access
- Boating safety and education
- Marine search and rescue
- Boating promotion
Maintenance of facilities

A review of management of boating facilities identified the value of local knowledge that asset managers hold, and the opportunities around providing more support and improved funding options to asset managers.

It is proposed that in the short term, Better Boating Victoria will lead improvements by providing additional support to asset managers and undertaking activities such as development of an asset management framework, maintenance and design guidelines, and provision of additional funding for maintenance through the Better Boating Fund.
Upgraded facilities

The demand for new facilities will continue to increase as the population grows, and as new waterways are made available for access.

The majority of Goulburn Broken District facilities do not have formalised car parking. To improve carparking and reduce congestion, we need to find opportunities to formalise ramp circulation, flow and carparking. This will also reduce the need to back boat trailers over long distances. Extra ramp lanes are needed in some locations to disperse bottlenecks that occur during peak launching and retrieval periods.

It is proposed that new developments are considered at identified locations. It is also proposed that improved carparking, longer jetties/pontoon and extra ramp lanes are considered at identified locations.
Facility renewal

To improve the condition of our public boat ramps, a rolling program of renewals and upgrades is required. We have identified a program based on visual condition assessments and facility usage in consultation with asset managers.

It is proposed that public boating facilities across the Goulburn Broken District are renewed in order of the following priorities:
Access

Navigation
A well-managed waterway assists in providing greater accessibility and equity of use to waterway users through the appropriate separation of activity types (swimming versus powered vessels), appropriate rules, aids to navigation, visible and useful signage, dredging and a balanced compliance, enforcement and education approach.

The provision of navigational aids and signage is an essential safety service to reduce the high risk of collisions. This is particularly important in the Goulburn Broken District due to above and below water hazards and varying water levels.

It is proposed that a program be developed to continue to support signage and aids to navigation for asset managers.

Universal design/all-abilities access
Victoria currently has three public boating facilities with equipment to help people with limited mobility get in and out of boats to access our waterways. To ensure more people have access to waterways at our public boating facilities, we’re looking to expand our accessible network across a greater geographical area within Victoria.

It is proposed that new access davits and pontoons are located at Lake Nagambie, Lake Mulwala and, if possible, a location on the Goulburn River near Shepparton.
Access

Houseboat access
It is Goulburn-Murray Water’s (GMW) role to control and manage houseboat operations, including water quality and other issues associated with over 700 houseboats. Facilities are provided on Lake Eildon including moorings and sanitation stations.

It is proposed that facilities continue to be provided to support the houseboat community and facilitate modern sewage treatment at Jerusalem Creek.
Boating safety and education

As on-water recreational pursuits such as boating become more popular, congestion and competition for space among different waterway users increases and creates greater safety risks.

Ongoing education regarding boating safety and vessel operation is critical to reducing injuries and fatalities.

It is proposed that boating education programs continue to be developed and translated into other languages to assist the culturally and linguistically diverse boating community.

Boating Vic cameras

Boating Vic app can be checked before leaving home to confirm parking availability and business of facility. To ensure more boaters can make informed decisions at the touch of a button, we’re now planning to launch additional Boating Vic ramp cameras at more key boating hotspots.
Marine search and rescue

From 2015 to 2020 (FY) there have been 75 recorded marine incidents in the Goulburn Broken District.

Victorian boaters rely on our Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) units to respond in these circumstances. Majority of our MSAR function is volunteer. However, we need to ensure that our volunteers have vessels, fuel and a base to respond to our boaters.

It is proposed that a program be developed to continue to support MSAR across the Goulburn Broken District.
Boating contributes significant benefits to Victoria’s recreational and community life. The marine industry contributes an estimated $4.5 billion per annum to the Victoria’s economy and employs more than 18,000 people and is a recreation source for hundreds of thousands of Victorians. Additionally, recreational fishing is enjoyed by 258,000 people in Victoria, many in boats, and employs 8,000 people.

It is proposed that a boating promotion program is developed that continues to support the industry and promotes the boating experience, tourism and economy.
Next steps

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and for completing the questions associated with it at: engage.vic.gov.au/rec-boating-strategy

We are undertaking consultation across eight districts in Victoria to confirm which priorities are essential so we can build this into a draft Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy that we will seek further feedback mid-year.

We also plan on releasing the first of a series of action plans in mid-2021 that will identify how the Better Boating Fund will be allocated in 2021-22.

For more information about this consultation, please visit: engage.vic.gov.au/rec-boating-strategy