

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Fishing and Boating



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CONSULTATION UNDERWAY ON MARIBYRNONG BOAT RAMP PLAN

Community consultation has begun on plans to improve on-water access to the Maribyrnong River by building the river's first public recreational boat ramp at Ascot Vale.

The \$1.6 million project is part of the Andrew Labor Government's unprecedented investment to improve boating in Victoria, complementing the Victorian Fisheries Authority's (VFA) Maribyrnong River Native Fish Revival Project.

Having already abolished launching and parking fees at Victorian boat ramps, and established the Better Boating Fund, Better Boating Victoria is progressing plans to construct a single-lane ramp at the end of Newsom Street in Ascot Vale.

Several options were investigated throughout the 18 months of preliminary planning works, with the Newsom Street site chosen given its proximity to a wide stretch of the river and location amid a recreational precinct away from residents.

The Maribyrnong river currently caters for kayaks and smaller craft but has no dedicated boating facilities. The ramp will provide recreational boaters with access to the popular fishing spot with species such as bream, estuary perch and mullet.

The Maribyrnong River Native Fish Revival Project includes \$200,000 through fishing licence fees to improve access to the Maribyrnong river, increase habitat for the river's key species and boost stocking – with 208,000 native estuary perch stocked since late 2018.

Along with consulting residents and boaters, neighbouring stakeholder groups and the broader community will be asked for feedback to incorporate into the design. BBV will work with the Moonee Valley City Council and other government and community stakeholders to progress the project.

The community can view the concept plans and have your say before Tuesday 4 May at www.betterboating.vic.gov.au/consultations/maribyrnong

Quotes attributable to Minister for Fishing and Boating Melissa Horne

"The Maribyrnong is a key recreational facility for many people in Melbourne's inner north and this new boat ramp will provide yet another way for people to enjoy the wonderful environment that's right on their doorstep."

"We encourage boaters, residents and community members to have their say on the plans to inform the final design work and ensure the facility meets the needs of the community."

Quote attributable to Member for Essendon Danny Pearson

"This new boat ramp will give boaters better access to the Maribyrnong River and means fishers will be able to land more bream, estuary perch and mullet right in the heart of Melbourne."