

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



Wednesday, 16 February 2022

MILESTONE FIRST FISH STOCKING FROM NEW NATIVE HATCHERY

The first native fish produced at the new Arcadia hatchery near Shepparton are now ready to be released into waterways across Victoria, with the Goulburn River receiving the maiden stocking.

Set to improve freshwater fishing opportunities and get more people fishing, more often, the \$7 million Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) hatchery is a key focus of the Andrews Labor Government's \$35 million Go Fishing Victoria plan.

More than 10,000 golden perch fingerlings are being stocked into the Goulburn River, marking the start of a new era of native fish production to complement VFA's other fish hatchery at Snobs Creek, near Eildon.

The Arcadia hatchery is set on 170 hectares on the banks of the Goulburn River and includes 32 ponds, 20 of which are plankton ponds growing newly hatched larvae into fingerlings for release.

The remaining 12 ponds will hold parent Murray cod and golden perch called broodfish, from which the eggs are sourced each breeding season.

When the hatchery is operating at full capacity, it will produce up to 1.6 million native fish annually – mostly Murray cod and golden perch – released as part of the Labor Government's statewide stocking program.

The program is supported by recreational fishing licence fees and will see an Australian-record 10 million fish stocked across the state by April 2022.

The next major milestone for the Arcadia site will be constructing a \$3 million visitor centre, complete with a fish-themed playground, fish out pond, and interactive displays. The visitor centre is scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

To learn more about the Go Fishing Victoria plan, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/gofishingvic.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Fishing and Boating Melissa Horne

"Seeing the first fish stocked locally into the Goulburn River less than 12 months after the first sod was turned at Arcadia signals a strong future for fishing in Victoria."

"The Arcadia hatchery will give the VFA greater capacity to produce more native fish and continue our record-breaking stocking program that is improving recreational fishing right across the state."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"This new fish hatchery at Arcadia ensures future generations can enjoy healthy fisheries and a good chance at hooking an iconic Murray cod or golden perch here in northern Victoria."