

Media Release

The Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Police
Minister for Water



Tuesday, 29 March 2022

BETTER ACCESS FOR LOCALS ON THE BARWON RIVER

The Andrews Labor Government is creating safer and easier access to recreational activities on the Barwon River with four new multi-use and accessible platforms.

Minister for Water Lisa Neville visited the Barwon River parklands today to open the Wal Whiteside Multi-Use Platform, Yollinko Wetland Walk and Multi-Use Platform, Rowing Precinct Landing Extension and Marnockvale Launching Facilities Upgrade.

The new platforms provide better access to recreational activities on the Barwon River and cater to a range of abilities and uses.

The platforms have been installed close to existing assets and structures maximising the benefits to the local Geelong community.

Upgrades to the landings at Geelong Canoe Club and Corio Bay Rowing Club will make launching at both locations safer and more accessible in all river conditions. The platform at Wal Whiteside Walk has been replaced so it provides motorboat mooring, kayak launching and a dedicated land-based fishing area.

The new platforms are part of the Labor Government's recreational values program which invested \$570,000 for the works. The project also received \$30,000 from Corangamite CMA, \$50,000 from Victorian Fisheries Authority and \$76,000 from City of Greater Geelong.

The Labor Government has also invested \$4.3 million towards the Barwon River Action Plan to protect and manage the iconic Barwon River and its tributaries. This includes connecting parkland trails, revegetation, riparian fencing and weed management to strengthen the resilience of our waterways.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Water Lisa Neville

"The Barwon River is a much loved piece of the Geelong community and the new access ramps will encourage more people to get out enjoy our beautiful waterways."

"These upgrades will complement our Barwon River Action Plan, which will ensure this iconic waterway stays healthy for future generations to enjoy."

Quote attributable to Member for South Barwon Darren Cheeseman

"These new facilities have enhanced safety features including an improved access ramp which will provide access in wet conditions and greater general safety for the community."

Quote attributable to Member for Geelong Christine Couzens

"This upgrade is an important development for the Barwon River and will benefit the local Geelong community and many other people who visit the area."