



Media Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF VRFISH - VICTORIA'S
RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY

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VRFISH CALLS FOR BETTER ACCESS TO CROWN LAND THROUGH 'ROADS TO RIVERS' PROGRAM

VRFish, the peak body representing Victoria's recreational fishing, is calling on the state government to work with recreational fishers and farmers to open up more public access roads to our rivers.

VRFish Chair, Mr. Rob Loats, said "Victoria has hundreds of kilometres of crown land river frontage that is inaccessible to recreational fishers because they can't cross private land. Unused road reserves often provide important intersections between public roads and public river frontage providing vital access for recreational fishers."

As more and more families seek out fishing opportunities, recreational fishers are raising concerns with VRFish that there are less places to fish or that they can't access waterways due to former access points being fenced off or unknowingly blocking access to fishers.

"We want to work with the government and farmers in a pragmatic way to identify key areas to access our valued waterways. If a particular track doesn't work, let's find one that does."

As per information from the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Action (DEECA), a licence over an unused road provides personal permission to enter and use the land for a specific purpose and does not offer exclusive use to the licensee.

"The sky won't fall down every time someone goes fishing and farmers shouldn't be pitted against fishers. We should be working together to get the right outcome for all Victorians."

VRFish are fully aware that our valuable farming community do the right thing and allow public access to crown land, inline with their licence conditions, and in-general fishers are respectful and aware they must seek permission to enter private property.

"We're not asking for vehicle access past farmhouses or sheds, but we want meaningful, commonsense access points to go fishing while enjoying our natural environment."

Recreational fishing is an important tourism contributor to regional economies, with recreational fishers investing hundreds of dollars per trip in buying food, fuel and accommodation as they travel through regional towns.

Earlier this year, VRFish launched its plan to make fishing better ahead of November's Victorian State Election. View the full list of VRFish State Election Priorities on the VRFish [website](#).

VRFish has been proudly representing Victoria's recreational fishing for more than thirty years.



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Habitat



Water



Promote



Access



Best Practice

