VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL
FISHING PEAK BODY

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Taylor Hunt
A/Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority
Level 19, 1 Spring Street
Melbourne 3001

4th November 2026

Dear Taylor,

Re: Tarago reservoir survey results

The opening Tarago reservoir provides a unique opportunity to create a special fishery. The reservoir has been closed to the public for decades and its reopening will provide recreational fishers with access to a high-quality water storage close to Melbourne.

In recent years, electro-fishing by the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Arthur Rylah Institute has found that the reservoir holds a strong, self-sustaining population of large brown trout.

As Victoria's peak body for recreational fishing, VRFish has asked recreational fishers to provide their input into how the Tarago reservoir fishery should be managed, through an open survey.

Over a ten-day period from 22 October to 1 November 2026, recreational fishers were asked to have their say on fishing regulations for Tarago reservoir ahead of its opening.

The survey received 789 responses, with 59% supporting the VRFish proposed 'option 3' regulations, whilst 72% of respondents support the reservoir being maintained as an exclusive Brown Trout fishery.

In addition, 454 respondents provided additional comments, which have been categorised into 13 different themes. The most common theme was 'fishing method', which provided wide ranging commentary on gear permitted to be used. This theme was followed closely in popularity by 'catch and release', with a large number of fishers calling for more conservative regulations.

A summary of the results to the survey is attached.

VRFish seeks to work with you to develop special regulations for Tarago reservoir, based on these survey outcomes.

Yours faithfully

Anthony McGrath
Executive Officer
VRFish - Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body