

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier

Victorian
Labor

DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS

Wednesday, 31 October 2018

BETTER BOAT RAMPS, FREE PARKING AND MORE FISH FOR VICTORIANS

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will make it cheaper and easier for Victorian families to get out on the water, with an unprecedented boost to recreational boating and fishing.

Labor will fix boat ramps, abolish all boat ramp parking and launching fees and make sure that every cent of licencing and registration fees is spent on boating safety and facilities.

Victorian families know that the costs of parking and launch fees can make a day on the bay an expensive outing, and poorly maintained facilities take the fun out of boating.

Labor will establish a *Better Boating Fund* to immediately get to work on urgent boat ramp upgrades including at Mordialloc, Queenscliff, Point Richards, Hastings and Rhyll.

Having already invested \$1.8 million to revitalize the Cowes Jetty precinct, Labor will undertake critical jetty maintenance works at the much-loved Cowes Jetty.

Paying to park your car and trailer at a boat ramp will be a thing of the past with Labor committing to abolish boat ramp parking fees, saving families up to \$315 a year on an annual parking permit.

There'll also be eight new casual berths across the bay accessible to the public.

Building on the success of the Andrews Labor Government's record \$46 million investment in the Target One Million program, Labor will invest in a massive boost to fish stocking and better planning for fishing tourism.

Under Labor, fish stocking will grow to 10 million a year by 2022, which means more fish to catch, and more tourism for fishing towns.

This comes on top of the \$7 million the Labor Government has already committed to a new native fish hatchery in Shepparton.

Labor will also end commercial fishing in the Gippsland Lakes, buying out the last of the commercial fishing licences and return the lakes system for recreational fishing to boost local tourism and jobs.

And for those who want to take their love of fishing from the ramp to the road, VicRoads will offer a new range of recreational fishing designed licence plates for cars, introduced as part of the range of custom plates.

Quote attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"Victorian boaters already pay licence and rego fees, they shouldn't also have to pay local councils up to hundreds of dollars just to use boat ramps – so we'll scrap these fees to make boating accessible for everyone."

Quote attributable to Minister for Ports Luke Donnellan

"The boating community has told us that they need better facilities and we've listened – this massive package of upgrades will be a game changer for recreational boating and fishing across Victoria."

Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford

"Whether you fish on the coast, our stunning bays and inlets or in pristine freshwater lakes and rivers – only Labor will deliver for recreational anglers."