

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Regional Development

Deputy Leader of the Government
in the Legislative Council

Victorian
Labor

**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Wednesday, 31 October 2018

MAKING BOATING CHEAPER AND EASIER FOR BELLARINE FAMILIES

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will make it cheaper and easier for Bellarine 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 taking the boat out.

Labor will establish a *Better Boating Fund* to get to work immediately on urgent boat ramp upgrades including the boat ramp at Queenscliff.

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 will also be eight new casual berths across the bay accessible to the public.

A re-elected Labor Government will also invest \$2.5 million into improving fish habitat in Port Phillip Bay with reef development and restoration.

Building on the success of the Andrews Labor Government's \$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 tourists for fishing towns.

Labor will open up new fishing spots across the state, allowing anglers to use non-powered boating such as kayaks and small craft with electric motors on Tullaroop, Lauriston, Hepburn, Barkers Creek, Upper Coliban and Malmsbury reservoirs.

A new *Fishing for All* program will be introduced to get more people into fishing and Labor will invest a further \$200,000 in the highly successful *Vic Fish Kids* program.

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 Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford

"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 Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville

"Locals have told us they need better facilities – that's why we're investing in the massive package of upgrades across the state and the Queenscliff Boat Ramp will be one of the first to benefit."

Media contact: Ben McNair 0409 730 565 | ben.mcnair@vic.alp.org.au