

DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL

FISHING

GUIDE

2009/2010

Welcome to the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide 2009-2010

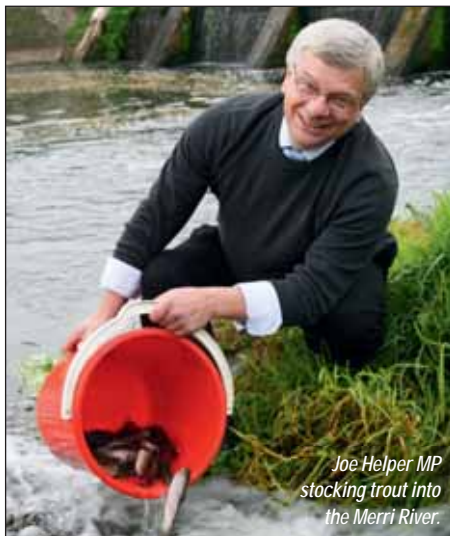
Recreational fishing is big business in Victoria, with anglers spending over \$400 million annually on goods and services associated with their pastime. More than 500,000 Victorians grab their rod and reel and head out into the great outdoors every year to spend time by the water with friends and family.

While drought has adversely affected many of our inland fisheries, there is an extensive list of waters that are well worth a visit. Many of them are stocked annually with trout by Fisheries Victoria. Other waterways are stocked with native fish such as Murray cod and golden perch. In 2008, more than 830,000 native fish were stocked into 35 lakes and rivers across Victoria.

Over the next year, fishing opportunities for Victorians will be boosted by 21 projects funded through \$1.2 million of recreational fishing licence (RFL) revenue. Projects include new fishing platforms and access stairs, an economic study of recreational fishing in Victoria and a program to promote fishing among disadvantaged primary school children. Although this Guide contains more detailed information on how your licence fees are invested to improve fishing opportunities, I believe this broad range of projects exemplifies the ongoing value of the small fee we pay to fish recreationally in Victoria.

As the Minister Responsible for Fisheries I am very proud of the Brumby Government's track record with recreational fishing. At the 2006 election, our government committed \$42 million to improve facilities and services for boaters and anglers to get more Victorians outdoors.

Many of these commitments have already been delivered, including ceasing all commercial netting in Western Port, boosting fish stocking and reviewing consultative arrangements – with a view to ensuring the views of recreational fishers are better represented to government, particularly in



*Joe Helper MP
stocking trout into
the Merri River.*

relation to how licence fees are spent. In addition, a new Adopt-a-Stream program has been introduced to provide funding to fishing and community groups to undertake fisheries habitat improvement works. More fish cleaning tables at public boat ramps and jetties and an additional \$1.2 million for the Marine Discovery Centre at Queenscliff have also been delivered. There is more about our election commitments in this Guide or you can visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/enhancedfishing.

The *Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide* remains the primary means by which Fisheries Victoria communicates regulations to anglers. In 2009 significant regulatory changes were introduced after broad consultation and public discussion. A concise summary of these changes is in this Guide so you can easily bring yourself up to speed on what has changed. The new and revised regulations have been made with the aims of better protecting our diverse fisheries and simplifying catch limits and gear restrictions where possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Helper".

The Hon. Joe Helper, MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Fisheries