

2025-26 Better Boating Fund Financial Report

This report provides financial information for the Better Boating Fund for the 2025-26 and 2024-25 financial years in accordance with Section 271H of the Marine Safety Act 2010.

Summary

Revenue generated in marine license and vessel registration fees

From July 2024 to June 2025 the total revenue generated from marine license and vessel registration fees was: **\$34,218,134**.

Amount of money that was deposited into the Better Boating Fund

The amount of money deposited into the Better Boating Fund for 2025-26 was: **\$33,436,653**.

Amount of money that was paid from the fund

From July 2025 to June 2026 the amount of money paid from the fund was: **\$34,896,535**.

The total amount of funds carried forward to the 2026-27 financial year was: **(\$1,459,882)**.

Previous comparative year for revenue, amount of money into the fund and amount paid out of the fund.

Year	Total revenue ¹	Funds paid into the Better Boating Fund	Funds paid out of the Better Boating Fund ²	Funds carried forward to the next financial year ³
2021 - 2022	\$32,865,743	\$33,291,438	\$19,284,252	\$14,007,186
2022 - 2023	\$36,597,108	\$32,865,743	\$30,340,922	\$2,524,821
2023 - 2024	\$36,368,246	\$36,597,108	\$32,487,558	\$4,109,550
2024 - 2025	\$34,218,134	\$36,368,246	\$34,433,658	\$1,934,588
2025 - 2026	\$34,834,226	\$33,436,653 ⁴	\$34,896,535	(\$1,459,882)
Changes between previous FY	\$616,092	(\$2,931,593)	\$462,877	(\$3,394,470)

¹ Total revenue is the total amount of fees for the registration, renewal and transfer of registration of recreational vessels, and the grant, renewal and endorsement of marine licences collected in the financial year. Monies received within a financial year are deposited into the fund in the following financial year. Noting that the fund was established in 2021-22, the \$33,291,438 paid into the fund in 2021-22 was from revenue collected in 2020-21.

² Funds paid out of the Better Boating Fund are in alignment with the approved initiatives in the annual Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy Action Plan for the relevant financial year.

³ Funds carried forward are committed funds to projects being delivered under approved annual Victorian Recreational Boating Strategy Action Plans.

⁴ Due to a miscalculation of collected revenue for 2024-25, \$1.18m was not received into the fund in 2025-26 and has been captured as a receipt in 2026-27. \$0.4m was returned regarding unspent funds on a feasibility study.

2025-26

High level description of the projects and programs that have been funded.

Note: Activities are listed under the reference number and heading of the relevant year's Action Plan.

Management and maintenance of boating facilities

To enhance the Victorian boating experience by supporting and improving the maintenance of our public facilities.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2025-26
2025-26	1.1	Removal of fees at public boat ramps	Provide funding for the removal of fees at public boat ramps that previously charged launching and parking fees.	\$2,783,584
2024-25	1.2	Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance program	Provide funding for Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance program to support asset managers at public boat ramps with maintenance of their facilities.	\$336,930.48
2022-23	1.2	Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance program	Provide funding for Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance program to support asset managers at public boat ramps with maintenance of their facilities.	\$98,320

Enhanced facilities

To enhance the Victorian boating experience by continuing to invest in renewing and building new boating facilities.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2025-26
2025-26	2.1	Construction of facility upgrades across Victoria	Commence construction of new ramps or renewal of existing facilities at: • Tarago Reservoir • Newhaven Pier • Tullaroop Reservoir • Mildura-Karadoc • Lake Colac	\$300,000
2025-26	2.1	Construction contingencies and project management	Construction contingencies and project management.	\$2,935,970
2024-25	2.1	Concept design for upgrade at facilities across Victoria	Plan and design for future upgrades at: • Rocklands Reservoir-Mountain Dam Road • Derrinal Pool	\$21,220

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2025-26
2023-24	2.1	Provide funding for planning and design upgrades across Port Phillip/Western Port	Plan and design for future upgrades at: • Tooradin • Mornington-Schnapper Point • St Leonards (Stage 2) • Newhaven • Grantville • Maribyrnong	\$134,343
2022-23	2.1	Provide funding for planning and design upgrades across Port Phillip/Western Port	Plan and design for future upgrades at: • Anthony's Nose • Corinella • Stony Point • Melton	\$42,136
2024-25	2.2	Concept design for upgrade at facilities across Victoria	Plan and design for future upgrades at: • Capel Sound • Cannons Creek • Ovens River- Bundalong South • Shepparton Weir	\$101,943
2023-24	2.2	Provide funding for planning and design upgrades across South and Central Gippsland	Plan and design for future upgrades at: • Tarago Reservoir (boat ramp)	\$129,976
2021-22	2.2	Provide funding for planning and design upgrades access across Port Phillip/Western Port	Plan and design for future upgrades at: • Altona	\$22,042
2024-25	2.3	Concept design for upgrade at facilities across Victoria	Plan and design for future upgrades at: • Tooradin • Mornington-Schnapper Point • Werribee South • Howqua Inlet • Limeburners Point (Stage 2)	\$6,779,541
2021-22	2.3	Commence planning upgrade and renewal facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port	Commence planning and design for future upgrades at: • Tooradin	\$12,987
2023-24	2.4	Provide funding to progress construction	Upgrade to: • Lang Lang Boat Ramp • French Island (Tankerton) Boat Ramp • Mildura – Redcliffe Boat Ramp • Mahers Landing Boat Ramp	\$1,722,130

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2025-26
2023-24	2.5	Construction contingencies and project management	Construction project contingencies and project management.	\$30,000
2022-23	2.6	Provide funding for planning and design upgrades across Goulburn Broken	Plan and design for future upgrades at: Howqua	\$7,060
2022-23	2.9	Provide funding to progress construction	Upgrade to: - Limeburners Point Boat Ramp (Stage 1) - Lake Burrumbeet Boat Ramp - Clifton Springs Boat Ramp Carpark	\$542,148
2021-22	2.14	Improvements to Wimmera Mallee Ramps (Rocklands Reservoir)	Formalise the earthen ramp at Hynes Road, including track, boat trailer parking and boat ramp.	\$153,000

Improved access and navigation

To enhance the Victorian boating experience by providing for improved access and navigation.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2025-26
2024-25	3.1	Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program	Provide dredging grants to support asset managers at public boat ramps to facilitate dredging works and deliver projects that provide better access to boat ramps.	\$397,472
2023-24	3.1	Port Phillip and Western Port Dredging Program	Progress EOI for a coordinated maintenance dredging program at key facilities across Port Phillip and Western Port.	\$18,700
2023-24	3.2	Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program	Provide funding for dredging grants to support asset managers who require dredging at boat ramps.	\$165,870
2024-25	3.3	Construction of all abilities access	Construction of all abilities access pontoon at Port Welshpool.	\$499,210
2023-24	3.3	Provide funding for construction of all abilities access	Upgrade to: Blue Rock Lake pontoon	\$200,000
2023-24	3.4	Waterway Management	Funding support for waterway managers	\$225,752

Safer waterways

To improve waterway and boating safety by investing in marine search and rescue and boating safety and education.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2025-26
2025-26	4.1	Emergency Management Victoria: Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) funds	Support our marine search and rescue teams by funding recruitment, training, equipment, utilities, fuel and maintenance.	\$2,119,321
2025-26	4.2	Provide for continued boating safety and boating education	Regulation and administration of recreational marine activities.	\$11,258,890
2025-26	4.3	Provide continued funding to support the Marine Radio Victoria emergency response network	Ongoing funding of the Marine Radio Victoria emergency response network across Victoria to respond to emergency distress calls.	\$1,637,868
2022-23	4.3	Provide funding for construction of all abilities access	Upgrade to: Blue Rock Lake Boat Ramp	\$327,527
2022-23	4.4	Waterway management	Funding support for waterway managers	\$42,432
2022-23	5.2	Emergency Management Victoria Safety initiative	Fund Emergency Management Victoria to support Marine Search and Rescue training initiatives.	\$8,518

Boating promotion

To enhance the Victorian boating experience by promoting boating across Victoria.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2025-26
2025-26	5.1	Delivery of initiatives to promote the boating experience across Victoria.	Sponsorship of the Boating Industry Association of Victoria to deliver: 2025 Melbourne Boat Show - Regional Victorian boat show in 2025-26 2026 Yarrowonga Powerboat Spectacular	\$350,000
2024-25	5.1	Delivery of boating promotion initiatives to promote the boating experience across Victoria	Delivery of boating promotion program that highlights the boating experience across regional Victoria	(\$25,000) ⁵

⁵ Relates to accounting treatment of accruals

2024-25	5.2	Encourage women in recreational boating	Delivery of boating program as identified in the Women In Recreational Fishing and Boating Strategic Plan 2024-30.	\$19,325
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Additional projects

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2025-26
2025-26		Strengthening Marine Search and Rescue	2025-26 Budget Decision – Strengthening Marine Search and Rescue.	\$1,182,000
2025-26		Review of the Better Boating Fund	Undertake a program evaluation of the Better Boating Fund.	\$276,167

2024-25⁶

High level description of the projects and programs that have been funded.

Note: Activities are listed under the reference number and heading of the relevant year's Action Plan.

Management and maintenance of boating facilities

To enhance the Victorian boating experience by supporting and improving the maintenance of our public facilities.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2024-25
2024-25	1.1	Removal of fees at public boat ramps	Provide funding for the removal of fees at public boat ramps that previously charged launching and parking fees.	\$2,712,191
2023-24	1.1	Removal of fees at public boat ramps	Provide funding for the removal of fees at public boat ramps that previously charged launching and parking fees.	\$35,398
2022-23	1.2	Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance program	Provide funding for Recreational Boating Structural Maintenance program to support asset managers at public boat ramps with maintenance of their facilities.	\$499,077
2021-22	1.3	Structural Maintenance Program	Provide funding to develop a structural maintenance program to support asset managers at public boat ramps.	\$71,914

Enhanced facilities

To enhance the Victorian boating experience by continuing to invest in renewing and building new boating facilities.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2024-25
2023-24	2.1	Provide funding for planning and design upgrades across Port Phillip and Western Port	Provide funding for planning and design for new ramps and future upgrades to progress the boating project pipeline including: • Tooradin • Mornington (Schnapper Point) • St Leonards • Newhaven • Grantville • Maribyrnong	\$102,576

⁶ 2024-25 information provided below is in accordance with section 271H (2)(a) of the Marine Safety Act 2010

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2024-25
2022-23	2.1	Provide funding for planning and design upgrades across Port Phillip/Western Port	Provide funding for planning and design for new ramps and future upgrades of boating facilities at: • Anthony's Nose (Dromana) • Stony Point • Corinella • Melton Reservoir	\$115,866
2023-24	2.2	Planning and design upgrades across South and Central Gippsland	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: • Tarago Reservoir for commencement of planning and design of boat ramp	\$226,357
2022-23	2.2	Planning and design upgrades across the South West	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: • Port Fairy	\$13,040
2021-22	2.2	Provide funding for planning and design upgrades across Port Phillip/Western Port	Provide funding for planning and design for new ramps and future upgrades of boating facilities at: • Werribee South • Lang Lang • Altona	\$322,059
2022-23	2.3	Planning and design upgrades across South and Central Gippsland	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: • Inverloch • Mahers Landing	\$8,456
2021-22	2.3	Commence planning upgrade and renewed facilities across Port Phillip/Western Port	Prepare concept plans to inform future upgrades at: • Capel Sound • Tooradin	\$51,626
2022-23	2.6	Planning and design upgrades across the Goulburn Broken	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: • Howqua Inlet	\$16,388
2022-23	2.8	Planning and design upgrades across Wimmera and Mallee	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades of boating facilities at: • Mildura	\$12,545
2023-24	2.4	Commence construction at facilities across Victoria	Provide funding to progress construction of boating facility upgrades at: • St Leonards • Lang Lang • Tankerton • Mildura – Redcliffs • Torquay Fishermans Beach car park • Inverloch • Laanecoorie • Mahers Landing (civil works)	\$8,869,855

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2024-25
2024-25	2.4	Construction contingencies and project management.	Provide funding for construction project contingencies and project management.	\$1,910,923
2023-24	2.4	Construction contingencies and project management.	Provide funding for construction project contingencies and project management.	\$1,587,623
2022-23	2.5	Planning and design upgrades across North Central	Provide funding for planning and design for future upgrades: Tullaroop	\$47,750
2022-23	2.9	Commence construction at facilities across Victoria	Provide funding to progress construction of boating facility upgrades at: - Limeburners Point car park - Clifton Springs car park - Lake Burrumbeet - Mahers Landing	\$988,147

More Boating Destinations

To enhance the Victorian boating experience by continuing to invest in destination locations.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2024-25
2022-23	3.1	Destination Jetties	Provide funding for upgrades of boating facilities at: - Gabo Island jetty - Raymond Island - Cunningham Arm	(\$223,033) ⁷

Improved access and navigation

To enhance the Victorian boating experience by providing for improved access and navigation.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2024-25
2023-24	3.2	Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program	Provide funding for dredging grants to support asset managers who require dredging at boat ramps.	\$562,857
2022-23	4.2	Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program	Provide funding for dredging grants to support asset managers who require dredging at boat ramps.	\$260,000
2021-22	4.2	Recreational Boating Access and Dredging Program	Provide funding for dredging grants to support asset managers who require dredging at boat ramps.	(\$4,240) ⁸

⁷ Relates to accounting treatment of accruals

⁸ Relates to accounting treatment of accruals

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2024-25
2023-24	3.4	Waterway Management	Funding for waterway managers to support the development of waterway rules, installation and maintenance of aids to navigation and safety signage.	\$706,424
2023-24	3.3	All abilities access	Delivery of all abilities access: • Lake Boga • Blue Rock Lake • Port Welshpool Hansa Crane Installation at: • Apollo Bay • Mordialloc	\$104,633
2022-23	4.3	All abilities access	Develop detailed designs to facilitate all abilities access at: • Victoria Park Echuca • Blue Rock Lake	\$380,000

Safer waterways

To improve waterway and boating safety by investing in marine search and rescue and boating safety and education.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure 2024-25
2024-25	4.1	Emergency Management Victoria: Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) funds	Support our marine search and rescue teams by funding recruitment, training, equipment, utilities, fuel and maintenance.	\$2,068,000
2024-25	4.2	Safe Transport Victoria - Marine Safety Victoria - Boating safety	Regulation and administration of recreational marine activities.	\$10,984,284
2023-24	4.3	Boating Vic Cameras	Funding for installation of Boating Vic Cameras: • Cowes • Mahers Landing • Kirk Point • Avalon • Lang Lang	\$100,000
2024-25	4.3	Marine Radio Victoria	Ongoing funding of the Marine Radio Victoria emergency response network across Victoria to respond to emergency distress calls.	\$1,470,425
2023-24	4.4	Marine Radio Victoria	Ongoing funding of the Marine Radio Victoria emergency response network across Victoria to respond to emergency distress calls.	\$249,600
2022-23	4.4	Waterway management	Funding to support waterway managers	\$125,333

Boating promotion

To enhance the Victorian boating experience by promoting boating across Victoria.

Action Plan	No.	Action	Action Description	Expenditure year	Expenditure 2024-25
2024-25	5.1	Delivery of boating promotion initiatives to promote the boating experience across Victoria	Delivery of a boating promotion program that highlights the boating experience across regional Victoria.	2024-25	\$100,000
2023-24	5.1	Delivery of boating promotion initiatives to promote the boating experience across Victoria	Delivery of a boating promotion program that highlights the boating experience across regional Victoria.	2024-25	\$8,000

Authorised by the Hon. Melissa Horne

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