

6. Industry snapshot: Recreation

Key takeaways

- Recreational fishing and boating contributes \$4.5 billion annually and 17,700 full-time jobs to the Victorian economy
- Water based recreation is expanding, with Victoria's population expected to increase by 10 million by 2051
- Within GMW's region, there has been a steady increase in recreational use on and around waterways

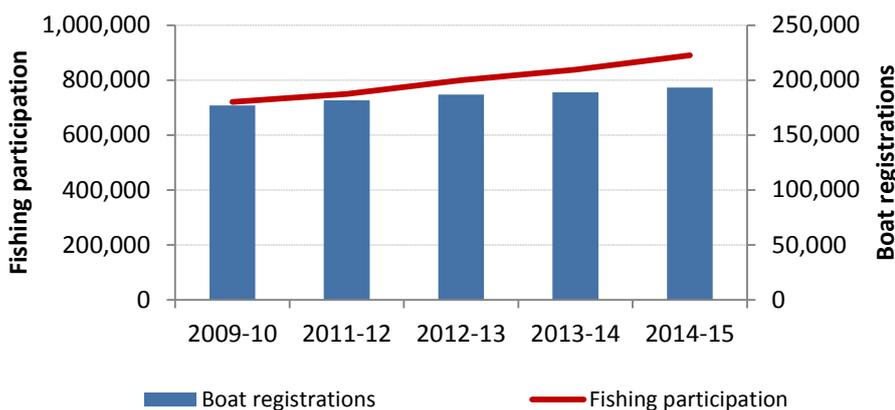
Overview

There are significant economic and social benefits realised through the recreational use of waterways. Recreational uses involving water includes boating (power and sail), fishing, watercraft (jet skis, kayaks, canoes), houseboating, water skiing, recreation reserves, sporting events such as triathlons, outdoor clubs and camping. The social and economic community benefits associated with these activities is recognised in the Victorian State Government's Water for Victoria Plan, which contains actions to support recreational use of waterways and storages.

In addition to direct benefits, growth in the recreation industry will potentially bring many indirect benefits to the region, with increased employment and visitors leading to increased consumption of dairy, agricultural and other products provided by local producers.

Key statistics

The following charts contain data on recreational uses of water in Victoria, as at 2014-15.



Source: GMW internal analysis

- Recreational boating contributes \$4.5 billion per year and 17,700 jobs to the Victorian economy
- Recreational fishing generates \$7.1 billion per year and accounts for 33,967 full-time jobs
- State Government aims to grow recreational fishing participation to 1 million anglers by 2020

Source: DEDJTR, 2016

Access to water for recreation at GMW storages and waterways

Free recreational access to GMW storages is widely enjoyed by the community, many of whom are from outside GMW's region. Examples of GMW storages used for recreation include:

- Goulburn Weir Main Recreation
- Eildon Spillway
- Cairn Curran Spillway
- Nillahcootie Embankment
- Yarrawonga Weir reserves and
- Hume Kookaburra Point.

At some storages GMW provides dedicated services to support water based recreation, with fees paid by users (eg boat clubs) and additional funding from sources such as Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Maritime Safety Victoria, and the Murray-Darling Basin Association (MDBA) contributing to recovering the costs of these services

The below provides information on the types and number of recreational users of water at GMW storages and waterways, as at 2015/16.



Source: GMW analysis

Trends

Impact of the Water for Victoria Plan expected to amplify increases in demand for water-based recreation

- Water for Victoria Plan sets a new long-term direction for managing our precious water resources as we deal with the impacts of climate change and a growing population
- The plan gives increased prominence to Aboriginal values of water and recreational values of water

Source: DELWP, 2016

Significant population growth projected for Victoria over next 30 years

- Australia's population grew by 1.4 per cent in 2015-16, with Victoria the highest of all states and territories at 2.1 per cent
- Victoria's population is projected to increase to 10.1 million by the year 2051

Source(s): ABS, 2016 and Australian Policy Online, 2016

Rapid growth in visits to regional Victoria

- Caravan and camping holidays reached all-time high in 2016, with annual 11.8 million visitor nights (up 13 per cent)
- International visits to regional Victoria grew 16.9 per cent to March 2016

Source: Caravan Industry Association of Australia, 2016; Tourism Victoria, 2016

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