

Opening Tarago Reservoir up to motorised boats and recreational fishing

Update

February 2025



A 2022 election commitment to open up Tarago Reservoir to motorised boats and recreational fishing is being delivered by the Victorian Fisheries Authority, Better Boating Victoria and Melbourne Water.

A site has been selected and a concept design is well underway for the boat ramp, car park, jetty and amenities to be built at Tarago Reservoir. The concept design is something we wish to consult you on.

You are invited to a community meeting on Thursday 20 February 5.30pm at the Jindivick Hall to view the concept design and discuss all aspects of the Tarago Reservoir project with the Victorian Fisheries Authority, Better Boating Victoria and Melbourne Water.

Project Background

Tarago Reservoir was stocked with trout by Fisheries from 1969 to 1976.

The reservoir was closed to fishing in 1977, however the river remained one of the best trout streams in Australia.

A 2020 study of the fish in Tarago Reservoir revealed trout aged 3 to 10 years of age, making them some of the oldest brown trout recorded in Australia. Brown trout typically live to 6 years of age, so this is a rare population in Victoria.

In 2022, The Victorian Labor government made an election commitment to reopen Tarago Reservoir to motorised boats and recreational fishing.

The commitment was to upgrade water treatment plants and build facilities for boat launching.

What's happened so far

Better Boating Victoria engaged maritime engineers FSC Range to lead a multi-criteria analysis of locations, conducted in conjunction with project partners including the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, Melbourne Water and Baw Baw Shire Council.

As a result of the analysis of various sites, the Victorian Minister for Outdoor Recreation announced that North Jindivick road is the chosen site for the boat ramp location.

Better Boating Victoria has now engaged engineering firm Partnear to design the boat ramp.

Other contractors have been engaged to finalise planning approval and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Melbourne Water update

Maintaining safe, clean and world-class drinking water supply from Tarago Reservoir remains Melbourne Water's number one priority.

Part of the government's investment at Tarago Reservoir is for new and additional ultra-violet upgrades to Melbourne Water and Gippsland Water treatment plants. These upgrades are progressing well and will address water quality associated

with contact with the water when the reservoir is open for on-water recreation. This recreation is specifically limited to fishing and boating. Swimming will not be permitted.

Additionally, to manage the boat ramp facilities and on water recreation at Tarago Reservoir, Melbourne Water is developing a Recreational Area Management Plan (RAMP). Community and key stakeholders will have the opportunity to review content of this Plan as the project progresses.

Community Meeting

A community meeting is planned for Thursday 20 February 5.30pm at the Jindivick Hall.

Better Boating Victoria wish to consult with the community on the concept design for the boat ramp planned for construction and this will be the first opportunity to view the design.

Community members will have the opportunity to provide comment on the design at the meeting as well as provide further feedback on the design via an online survey. You will be provided with the link to the survey via a separate email and feedback will be invited for several weeks after the meeting.

You will also have the opportunity to meet with Government officials working on the Tarago Reservoir project and hear about progress on the boating and fishing rules as well as Melbourne Waters Recreational Area Management Plan.

Ongoing Communication

This is the first of our monthly updates we plan for the remainder of 2025.

Another community meeting will occur around June to consult on waterway and fishing rules.

For further information, contact the team at any time:

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