

Project Update – Tarago Reservoir Boat Ramp

Dear stakeholder,

Better Boating Victoria is working in partnership with Melbourne Water, the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, Baw Baw Shire Council and other agencies to implement the Victorian Government's election commitment to open up Tarago Reservoir to on-water access for recreational boating and fishing.

The project involves upgrades to water treatment facilities and the construction of a boat ramp to enable on-water access.

We are pleased to advise that the detailed design for the ten-space car park and toilet block at the North Jindivick Road entrance to the reservoir has been finalised following a range of site-specific investigations including geotechnical reporting as well as ecological and arborist reporting.

The North Jindivick Road location was identified, and subsequently confirmed by Government in 2024, as the most suitable location for the new boat ramp, following a detailed multi-criteria assessment that considered a range of factors such as environmental conditions, cultural heritage, public access and cost. To safeguard water quality, petrol motors will not be permitted on vessels used at Tarago Reservoir.

Construction of the boating facilities is expected to commence mid-2026 and be completed by October/November 2026.

Tarago Reservoir is classified as a public inland water, meaning recreational fishers:

- Require a Victorian recreational fishing licence;
- Must use permitted equipment; and
- Adhere to bag and size limits and closed seasons for recreational caught species such as:

Salmonids (brown trout)

- Bag limit of 5 trout per person per day
- No minimum size limit
- No closed season

Blackfish

- Bag limit of 2 per person per day
- Minimum size 30 cm
- Closed season 1st Sept to 31st Dec

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Melbourne Water has successfully completed water treatment upgrades to the Tarago treatment plant, whilst Gippsland Water has successfully completed water treatment upgrades to the Warragul and Neerim South treatment plants. Melbourne Water will also install on-water safety and water quality protection infrastructure at Tarago Reservoir, including buoy lines and signage.

To support the opening of Tarago Reservoir for on-water recreation and the operation of a new boat ramp, Melbourne Water is developing a Recreational Area Management Plan and Waterway rules. These will ensure that recreational access is introduced safely, sustainably and in line with drinking water protection requirements. The plan will outline rules to safeguard water quality, including identifying permitted activities (such as electric motor vessels, portable canoes and kayaks), specifying non-permitted activities (such as camping and bushwalking), and establish requirements for site security and access management, among other considerations.

Engagement on the Recreational Area Management Plan and Waterway Rules will commence shortly, and Melbourne Water invites your participation—your feedback is important.

Better Boating Victoria will continue to provide you with bi-monthly updates on the progression of the boat ramp project between now and when the ramp is opened for public use. In the meantime, if you would like any additional information about the project, please visit Better Boating Victoria's website where Frequently Asked Questions and further details are provided (link below). Alternatively, please feel free to contact Better Boating Victoria - bbv.communications@vfa.vic.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Better Boating Victoria

Better Boating Victoria website – [Better Boating Victoria | Easier and Cheaper Boating](#)