



8 December 2018

Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier
Victorian Government
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Melbourne 3002

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Cc Minister for Transport, The Hon Luke Donnellan
Cc Treasurer, the Hon Tim Pallas

Dear Premier

Turning on growth in Victoria's boating industry

The Victorian Boating Industry is seeking to provide your government with an opportunity to lift the sector from its current precarious state into a leadership position in Australia.

We are seeking a meeting with you to explore the potential for this to be achieved through a collaborative approach which will see a vibrant and sustainable industry in Victoria.

Your government's figures show that recreational boating in Victoria is worth \$4.5 billion per year currently to the Victorian economy. This is underpinned by 193,000 registered boat owners, 1 million boating participants annually and 17,700 FTE jobs.

This industry position can be enhanced significantly through a proportionate funding model and program that will see the sector rise from its current stagnant state – and in some cases almost bankrupt - to one surpassing Queensland and New South Wales. It will stimulate jobs, create new industries and get more people into important recreational and healthy boating activities. We know of significant latent demand for boating and immense lost opportunity, due to ageing and inadequate facilities and infrastructure.

Your government is currently investing only \$3.23m (11.6%) of the State's total \$27.7 million of annual boating revenue on boating infrastructure. This low return is contrary to the Marine Safety Act 2010 (and preceding Acts of parliament, second reading speeches, etc) which stipulate the return of regulated fee revenue to recreational boating infrastructure and volunteer marine search and rescue services.

We believe that an investment of \$20 million annually will meet the Act's requirements and turn around the sector, as well as demonstrate your government's commitment to its growth and expansion, to cap that of NSW and Qld. Infrastructure expenditure in these states is \$17m and \$15m annually and respectively.

Our boating futures' policy will drive this regrowth and we would like to share it with you to achieve our mutual goals.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss an approach that will garner the support of more than 1 million boating participants in Victoria this year.

Kind regards



Steve Walker
CEO