

Snowy Water Licence Review
Intergovernmental and Strategic Stakeholder Relations
Department of Industry-Lands and Water
By email: snowylicence.review@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Re: Submission on the Ten year review of the Snowy Water Licence

VRFish welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Ten year review of the Snowy Water Licence.

VRFish is the peak body that represents recreational fishers in Victoria. Victoria's recreational fishing community exceeds 838,000 people and contributes nearly \$7.1 billion per annum to the Victorian economy.

Regarding the NSW Department of Industry's review of the Snowy Water Licence and its preliminary findings, VRFish would like to congratulate the Department on its very thorough review. The commitment to improve the delivery of environmental flows and maximise water-use efficiencies, and improvements to how Snowy Mountains water resources are managed are to be commended.

Of interest to VRFish is the realisation of the benefits that environmental flows would bring to the Snowy River fishery and the Victorian economy.

The Snowy River Water Enquiry found that environmental flows and the expected improvement in the Snowy river fishery could contribute an additional 15 million dollars in economic activity.

Over the last ten years our member fishing clubs have worked cooperatively with Victorian Government agencies to bolster the stock of Snowy River Australian bass, that together with environmental flows, is expected to form the basis of a growing and self-sustaining population.

VRFish believes that a significant contribution to achieving this goal is included in the following key proposal:

“the Office of Environment and Heritage partnering with the department, Snowy Hydro Limited and the Victorian and Commonwealth governments to finalise an investigation into releasing environmental water down the Snowy River from the Mowamba River.”

**Let's make fishing
better, for everyone.**

VRFish understands that there are important scientific findings that support this proposal as being the most effective way to deliver environmental water for the Snowy River.

Furthermore, VRFish wishes to restate the long-held community view that releasing most of the environmental water via the Mowamba River gives the Snowy River a natural head water that creates synchronicity between rainfall events and river flows. There is staunch support from our members for this investigation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Loats', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Loats
Chair
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

5 July 2018