

Harriet Shing MP

MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



Media Release

More estuary perch stocking for Bemm and Tyers

The Bemm River and Lake Tyers shared in 35,000 estuary perch fingerlings today to improve fishing opportunities for recreational anglers across the Gippsland region.

Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing, said implementing a marine stocking program delivered on a key commitment of the Andrews Labor Government's *Target One Million* plan, aiming to get more people fishing, more often.

"The Bemm River received 10,000 fingerlings and Lake Tyers got 25,000," Ms Shing said.

"These estuary perch complement stockings this time last year when 5,000 fingerlings released into the Bemm River and 25,000 into Lake Tyers.

"That was the first time the species had ever been stocked into marine waters in Victoria.

"Estuary perch fingerlings released into Gippsland are the offspring of local parent fish collected with the help of volunteer anglers.

"Using local strain broodfish ensures the stocking program does not compromise the genetics of wild perch populations."

Ms Shing said estuary perch stockings into Devilbend Reservoir on the Mornington Peninsula were showing encouraging signs with fly-fishers in particular catching lots of fish.

"Encouraging reports have also been received from anglers fishing the Werribee River, Melton Reservoir and Karkarook Lake.

"I look forward to similarly positive feedback on our marine stockings of estuary perch, which are expected to thrive in the productive waters of Bemm River and Lake Tyers.

"Creating new fisheries with native species can take several years so we need to be patient and keep our eyes and ears open for captures of young, small perch."

Last month, more than 100,000 estuary perch were stocked into nine lakes and rivers in central and south-western Victoria, including 15,000 into Devilbend Reservoir.

Estuary perch releases and the state-wide fish stocking program is funded by fishing licence fees and *Target One Million*, which aims to grow participation to one million anglers by 2020.

Learn more at www.vic.gov.au/estuaryperch

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