

Tambo stocked

Recreational fishing opportunities in East Gippsland will be increased after the Tambo River was stocked with 9000 Australian bass.

The fingerlings range from 2.5cm to 8cm in length and were funded by the Victorian Government's 'Target One Million' plan and the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

The release of the bass fingerlings into the Tambo River, between Bruthen and the Timbarra River, complements the 28,000 fingerlings released into the river since 2013.

Similar stockings in the Mitchell River over several years have produced encouraging results with anglers reporting the capture of small bass, consistent with the growth rates expected from those releases.

Creating new fishing opportunities through stocking delivers on the Government's plan to grow recreational fishing participation to one million anglers by 2020.

Lake Guthridge in Sale has also been stocked with 4000 Australian bass.

The lake already receives catchable size rainbow trout for the June and September school holidays each year. However, the development of a bass fishery right in town will provide additional fishing opportunities for locals and visitors alike, especially in summer.

More broadly, Victoria's Australian bass stocking program has continued to expand, supported by recreational fishing licence fees, and now boasts 17 lakes and rivers.

Nearly 700,000 bass have been released since 2002 and perhaps the most successful waterway has been Blue Rock Lake, near Trafalgar, where anglers have been catching legal size bass for several years.

Boating rules on Blue Rock Lake were relaxed last year and vessels of any length, carrying any engine size, can now navigate the lake and make the very most of the fishery, which also includes stocked trout.

Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing, welcomed the move.

"This is another great catch for Gippsland anglers," Ms Shing said.

"Time spent fishing with family and friends is great for our wellbeing and also for our regional tourism and hospitality industries."