



Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

PO Box 500
East Melbourne VIC 8002

Ref: BMIN-2-26-49619

Niels Gabriel
Coroner's Registrar
Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Coroner's Registrar,

Thank you for your email dated 11 November 2025, regarding Coroner Audrey Jamieson's Finding without inquest into the death of Chieu Kheang Chua (COR 2024 002093).

I would like to convey my sincere condolences to the Chua family and his friends. The safety of recreational fishers is of the utmost importance to the Victorian Government.

I have carefully considered Coroner Jamieson's recommendations and am pleased to provide the attached document (**Attachment 1**) detailing the actions that will be implemented to continue to improve the safety of rock fishers in Victoria.

Point Roadknight has now been added to the list of high-risk areas where rock fishers must wear a lifejacket and I intend to improve rock fishing safety signage and pursue communication of real-time hazardous surf and weather conditions via a phone application. I also intend to transfer the rock fishing safety Fisheries Notice into regulation.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

If you would like any further information or assistance, please contact Mr Travis Dowling, Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Fisheries Authority on telephone [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Steve Dimopoulos MP
Member for Oakleigh
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

[Date:] 12/4/26

Enc Attachment 1: Minister for Outdoor Recreation's response to Coroner Jamieson's recommendations

Attachment 1

Minister for Outdoor Recreation's response to Coroner Jamieson's recommendations (COR 2024 002093)

RECOMMENDATION (i)

With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that the Victorian Fisheries Authority publicly release the evaluation of the trial of mandatory lifejacket use at the 10 high-risk zones identified along the Victorian coastline to complement the drowning data available.

Minister's response: *Partially accepted.*

The Rock Fishing Safety Working Group's evaluation was designed to help inform decisions around rock fishing safety in Victoria. It was not intended for public release. However, I have considered the evaluation as part of my response to Mr Chua's death.

RECOMMENDATION (ii)

With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Minister for Outdoor Recreation update the legislative requirement to wear lifejackets to extend to all coastal rock platforms across the state of Victoria.

Minister's response: *Partially accepted.*

The VFA will continue to mandate the use of lifejackets at high-risk sites and will place the requirement into regulation. The VFA will work to upgrade the existing rock fishing safety signs, prioritise rock fishing safety education material, events and awareness programs (including developing the material in multiple languages) and will continue to monitor rock fishing trends over time. The rock platform at Point Roadknight, Anglesea, has also been added to the high-risk sites where a life jacket must be worn by rock fishers as part of the *Fisheries (Rock Fishing Safety) Notice 2026*.

In the longer-term, I intend to transfer the provisions of the rock fishing safety Fisheries Notice into regulation, as part of the review of the Fisheries Regulations 2019, which are due to sunset in December 2029 (subject to the necessary heads of power and all necessary processes and approvals associated with subordinate legislation). The requirement to wear a lifejacket at high-risk sites will continue to be implemented via Fisheries Notice until the review of the Fisheries Regulations 2019 is completed (subject to the necessary consultation and processes outlined in the *Fisheries Act 1995*).

RECOMMENDATION (iii)

With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that the Minister for Outdoor Recreation consider the mandatory wearing of lifejackets or use of other safety equipment for all users of rocky platforms along Victoria's coastline, including for those walking on rocks.

Minister's response: *Partially accepted.*

I have considered this proposal in the context of the number of people who visit and use the Victorian coastline, the number of rocky platforms and the relatively low number of non-fishing related incidents on such platforms each year. And, in response, I have asked the VFA to continue with its current focus on mandating the use of life jackets by rock fishers at high-risk sites only, rather than a broader requirement for all rock platform users. The VFA will also continue to promote water safety as a priority for all ages, genders and cultures through a range of education material, events and awareness programs.

RECOMMENDATION (iv)

With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that the Victorian Fisheries Authority consult with Life Saving Victoria regarding incorporating the legislative requirement to wear lifejackets into current compliant static water safety signage at these zones, to avoid the over-saturation of signage and to avoid the risk of temporary signage being damaged or removed.

Minister's response: *Accepted.*

The VFA, in consultation with Life Saving Victoria (LSV), has reviewed the existing rock fishing safety signage that has been erected at the high-risk sites where a life jacket must be worn. As a result, new signage will be developed by the VFA that will be erected at key entrance points to each high-risk site. The new signage will follow international standards and will be simplified to include three elements:

1. the internationally recognised lifejacket symbol (ref: ISO 7010-M053) used as a mandatory action sign (i.e. represented in a blue circle, inclusive of a white pictorial);
2. one line of complimentary text (e.g. "Lifejackets must be worn when rock fishing") will be displayed in English beneath the symbol; and
3. a supportive QR code displayed, that takes users to the rock fishing safety pages on the VFA website (which includes additional safety information and information in alternative languages).

The VFA will also work with LSV, Parks Victoria and other land and waterway managers to incorporate the above information into existing water safety signage at the high-risk sites wherever possible, rather than erecting stand-alone rock fishing signs, to avoid over-saturation of signage in the areas.

I also recognise that signage is only one of the tools available to improve water safety and help reduce rock fishing drownings. The on-site signage will continue to be supported by a range of

education material, delivered in multiple languages and various formats, as well as events and awareness programs designed to ensure rock fishers are aware of their legal obligations to wear a life jacket at the high-risk sites. The education material and events will also encourage rock fishers to wear life jackets whenever rock fishing, regardless of whether they are at a high-risk site or at any other rock fishing location.

RECOMMENDATION (v)

With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that the Minister for Outdoor Education or other appropriate entity explore how real-time hazardous surf and weather conditions could be communicated to those attending high-risk locations, for example through push notification via the VicEmergency App, BeachSafe App or Bureau of Meteorology website.

Minister's response: *Accepted.*

The VFA will work with LSV, Surf Life Saving Australia and the Bureau of Meteorology to explore whether real-time hazardous weather conditions relevant to rock fishing can be feasibly communicated via the BeachSafe app and/or the Bureau of Meteorology app.