



Lynton.G.Barr
P.O.Box 23
Swan Reach 3903
Victoria
Phone 03 5156 4674
Email- delbarr1@bigpond.com

Around the Jetties

Late Notice

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Editor

The following Media Release from Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Jaala Pulford, was received today 23rd May. I regard this as a most important media release and felt readers would be most interested in this appointment. Craig Ingram was the member for East Gippsland until defeated by the present incumbent. Craig will bring wide experience and knowledge of East Gippsland and this states recreational and commercial fisheries. I would think recreational anglers would be pleased with this appointment.

Media Release

Key Appointment to Deliver Target One Million Plan

Former independent member for Gippsland East, Craig Ingram, has been appointed by the Andrews Labor Government as a Special Coordinator to assist with implementing its *Target One Million* plan to grow recreational fishing in Victoria.

The Minister for Agriculture, Jaala Pulford, said Mr Ingram's most immediate task will be to work with Fisheries Victoria to deliver on the Labor Government's commitment to halt commercial netting in Port Phillip and Corio Bays over eight years and support the industry in this transition.

In delivering this commitment, the Labor Government has undertaken to offer commercial licence holders a clear and fair exit strategy, consult closely with the industry and work respectfully with all those impacted.

With prior experience in the commercial and recreation fishing sectors including as the Executive Officer of the Amateur Fisherman's Association of the NT and as a former abalone diver, Mr Ingram is well placed to consult closely with stakeholders from both sectors to implement the phase out and the *Target One Million* Plan.

Mr Ingram will work directly with Ms Pulford and assist with the Target One Million initiatives, including banning netting at the mouth of rivers in the Gippsland Lakes, stocking 15,000 barramundi into the Hazelwood Pondage and fulfilling infrastructure commitments under the *Better Fishing Facilities Fund*.

Target One Million will increase the number of Victorian recreational fishers to 1 million by 2020, boost fish stocks to 5 million per year, support new infrastructure facilities and develop new childrens' fishing programs.

The Labor Government provided \$20 million in the recent 2015/16 Victorian Budget for Target One Million demonstrating its commitment to the recreational sector.