



Welshpool & District Advisory Group  
Port Welshpool Long Jetty Steering Committee  
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To whom it may concern,

**RE Letter of the Support for the restoration of the Port Welshpool Long Jetty and the Proposed Underwater Observatory**

VRFish (the Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body) recognises that, with a rapidly growing population, there is increasing demand for safe recreational fishing opportunities – including from Piers and Jetties.

Piers and Jetties provide safe, suitable and easy access for all elements of the recreational fishing community and are therefore highly patronised. The Port Welshpool Long Jetty holds a significant place in recreational fishing history over the time of its operation as one of, if not the finest fishing platform in the State. It is a perfect place for family fishing and compliments the unique all tide access boat ramp at the port providing fishing opportunities when the weather is inclement or for the family that does not have access to a boat for sea fishing.

VRFish is pleased to provide support to the Welshpool and District Advisory Group in its efforts to re-open the Port Welshpool Long Jetty to public access, as a new recreational fishing opportunity and re-establishing the Port Welshpool Long Jetty as a prime recreational fishing destination.

Further to returning the Port Welshpool Long Jetty to its primary place as a recreational fishing platform, VRFish view the proposed Underwater Observatory as a project worthy of support. With VRFish developing wide ranging habitat policies this proposal is particularly timely. We consider the Underwater Observatory as a unique educational opportunity for the broader Victoria community.

VRFish is also very keen to explore the unique opportunity for it to be involved in the operation of the Long Jetty itself, working alongside the Welshpool and District Advisory Group; in its promotion and the development of its facilities to promote year round recreational fishing. It is also an important base of a rapidly growing game fishery and fishing opportunities in and around Bass Strait islands to Tasmania.

The VRFish Board will also consider forming a partnership with the Welshpool and District Advisory Group and explore the potential for VRFish to become a stakeholder in the Long Jetty as a self funding facility. This is especially viable given early indications toward the willingness of the recreational fishing community to pay a nominal fee for its use toward the maintenance and upkeep of the facility.

This Jetty and Underwater Observatory has the possibility of becoming a major tourist attraction and could potentially assist in further economic growth for the region.

Kind regards,

Christopher Collins  
Executive Officer