

Blue Rock Lake recreational fishing haven

The Victorian Government is introducing new measures to help make Blue Rock Lake one of Victoria's premier Australian Bass fisheries.

Recreational anglers will now have better access to the Lake, near Moe, thanks to new boating rules.

New boating rules at Blue Rock

New boating rules now apply at Blue Rock Lake.

The new rules are the first real change since Blue Rock Lake was built in the early 1980s. The old rules were designed to restrict erosion when the lake was first built. Erosion is no longer a problem, but the rules prevented modern recreational fishing vessels from using the lake.

As part of the Victorian Labor Government's 'Target One Million' plan to get one million people into recreational fishing, new rules have been developed over the past two years to balance the desire for increased access, modern fishing boats, local community wishes and legal requirements.

These rules are set by Transport Safety Victoria (TSV).

What are the details?

The new rules remove limits on boat length and engine power, and lift maximum speed from 5 knots to 15 knots in designated zones.

Two "no boating areas" have been retained for swimmers, and a large area has been restricted to five knots only which will be suitable for kayakers. These areas will be clearly marked.

These changes are in line with the Marine Safety Act and will allow more boat owners - particularly those with boats with larger motors - to access Blue Rock Lake. However the speed restriction of 15 knots will address water quality and safety issues for more passive users such as kayakers and swimmers.

The 15 knot limit is below the speed commonly used for most water skiing and jet ski activities and these activities will continue to be deterred via this speed limit.

Blue Rock Lake boating restrictions table	Old rules	New rules
Maximum boat length	4.3m	No limit
Maximum output	10Hp (7.5Kw)	No limit
Maximum speed	5 knots	15 knots, except in designated safety zones (5 knots)
No go zones	No boating in areas around SRW infrastructure and designated swimming zones	No boating in areas around SRW infrastructure and designated swimming zones

How is Southern Rural Water going to manage increased usage?

Southern Rural Water has extensive experience in managing compliance with boating and recreational rules at its major dams across the state. This compliance work has had extremely positive feedback from most users and the local community.

During this trial period at Blue Rock Lake, we will:

- conduct random land and on-water compliance activities
- provide educational signage and flyers to users of the lake
- check regularly with lake users for feedback
- check regularly with the local community for feedback.

We also welcome your views via our Customer Service Centre on 1300 139 510, via email to srw@srw.com.au or via our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

At the end of the trial period in September 2016, Southern Rural Water will consider all feedback and compliance experience, and draft a report and submit to Transport Safety Victoria with our recommendations.

More information

For more information, or to discuss any concerns about the changes, please contact our office on 1300 139 510.



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