

# Fishcare



## 'The Bite' on Lake Bullen Merri Australian bass **WEIGH YOUR CATCH!**

- Simply measure your fish from head to the tip of the tail and read the corresponding average weight and age.

Australian bass are a **native species**, found naturally in the coastal flowing streams east of Wilsons Promontory. They are aggressive and carnivorous feeders that eat insects, crustaceans, worms and fish. Australian bass can grow to over 2kg in weight, although they are often caught by anglers between 300g-1kg.

In 1996, **Australian bass were stocked into Lake Bullen Merri** as part of a trial. Since then over 100,000 fingerling bass have been released. Research surveys conducted between 2000 & 2002 indicate survival of fish from each annual stocking. Australian bass do not breed in impoundments and as a result stocking is required to maintain the fishery.

*release unwanted fish  
carefully to the water... FISHCARE!*

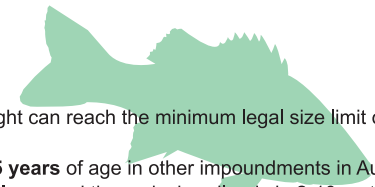


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ALEXIS BECKETT

### WHAT do we know?

- Fingerling bass stocked at 1-2g in weight can reach the minimum legal size limit of **25cm at 4-5 years** of age.
- Bass have been found to **live up to 15 years** of age in other impoundments in Australia.
- Australian Bass can form **large schools** around the rocky headlands in 2-10 metres of water.
- They are commonly **caught in the warmer months** (October-April) when water temperatures are between 16-23°C.
- Their diet consists of **caddisfly larvae** and **small fish**, such as the galaxias and flat-headed gudgeon, which are abundant in the lake.

[www.fishcare.org.au](http://www.fishcare.org.au)



### REGULATIONS

#### Australian bass

Scientific name: *Macquaria novemaculeata*

- **LAKE BULLEN MERRI**  
Minimum legal size: 25cm  
Bag/possession limit: 5
- **OTHER VICTORIAN WATERS**  
Minimum legal size: 25cm  
Bag/possession limit: 2



This ruler is a guide only. Produced January 2005.