

- ✓ **Look.**
- ✓ **Act.**
- ✓ **Protect.**

# Aquarium pets can become serious pests.

Aquarium animals make great pets, but they can become freshwater pests if they get into rivers, creeks, lakes and wetlands, as can aquarium plants.

**Be a responsible pet owner. Help stop freshwater pests in Victoria's waterways.**

Follow these tips:

- Own permitted plants and animals only.
- Buy pets and plants from licensed retailers to help stop illegal import and trade.
- Never release aquarium pets or contents into or near waterways, or down toilets or drains.
- Take care when cleaning aquariums to prevent water, animals, plants and sediment from ending up in waterways.
- Rehome or dispose of unwanted aquarium pets correctly and humanely – contact a veterinarian or pet retailer for guidance.
- Don't use unwanted pets as fishing bait.
- Dispose of unwanted plants and cuttings in the bin.
- Don't compost plants, because their seeds and other plant parts may spread.
- Adhere to rules in the *Fisheries Act 1995*, *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*.

For further information about freshwater pests, please call the Victorian Government on **136 186** or visit:

**Agriculture Victoria**

[www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity)

**Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

[www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

**Victorian Fisheries Authority**

[www.vfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au)

