



**Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc**  
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*Sustainable future fishing for trout and native fish*

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### **Trout Cod Recovery Plan Status**

MAS seeks your advice on a number of matters in respect to the efforts for restoring Trout Cod to NSW waters.

A number of our members attended your community engagement in Queanbeyan on 16 Nov 2023 where stakeholder response was sought in respect to a draft Trout Cod Action Plan

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/draft-trout-cod-action-plan.pdf>

there was also a 'have your say' survey being conducted at that time.

The briefing indicated that community reaction would be factored into the final draft Trout Cod Recovery Plan to be submitted to your minister. The meeting was cautioned that there would be no exposure to the final draft prior to that submission.

In addition to the community meeting, several members of MAS assisted with stocking of Trout Cod into the Goodradigbee River on 7 Dec 2023. At that time, we were disappointed to see stocking occurring upstream of the Tumut Road bridge, indeed all the way up to approved Rainbow Trout stocking sites at the Council reserve and Travelling Stock Reserve. The members who attended the Queanbeyan community brief came away with the distinct impression that these Trout Cod stockings would be limited to below the bridge, in particular at Flea Creek and McIntyre's Hut vicinities. We respect your concerns about stocking further downstream of McIntyre's Hut due to the presence of predatory Murray Cod.

Our understanding is that these Trout Cod stockings are by way of trial, firstly to confirm survivability of stocked fish and, hopefully in due course, natural recruitment. We understand that conditions last year were not conducive to surveying near Flea Creek or McIntyre's Hut but that no Trout Cod were captured.

We seek the following from you:

- What is the status of a Trout Cod Recovery Plan – searching the NSW Fisheries website only reveals the draft?
- What plans are there for trial stockings again in 2024 – where, when?

- What formal research plans are in place to assess the 2023 (and further) stockings?

MAS share with you the sincere desire to see this iconic species be restored. We do however have concerns over possible bans on stocking trout into premier trout waters in the Goodradigbee and seek to be engaged in Trout Cod developments. At the community consultation and the stocking day much was promised about openness and communications in respect to the Trout Cod actions. We are concerned that there has been a significant period of silence in this regard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Pfeiffer', written in a cursive style.

Kerry Pfeiffer

President

Monaro Acclimatisation Society

Aug 2024