



Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc
9 Thompson Drive
Tathra, NSW. 2550

Sustainable future fishing for trout and native fish

10th April 2024

The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC
Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW and Western NSW
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

The Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS) has written to you on two occasions in the past regarding the listing of *Galaxias terenusus* (Roundsnout galaxias) and our concerns about trout stocking bans within the Snowy River catchment.

It is our considered view that as these native fish and trout have co-existed for some 130 years, that solutions where both can continue to cohabit within the Snowy River system are possible and need to be explored.

We note that there is a management plan for the *Galaxias tantangara* (Stocky galaxias) which has been developed by DPI Fisheries that demonstrates that recovery and long-term survivability of the *Galaxias* species may be possible. We are also aware that there is a new threat to these plans in the form of the alien Oriental Weatherloach (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*) which seems to be rising in population throughout the Murrumbidgee and Snowy River systems.

The MAS has written to South East Local Land Services with regard to applying for funding through the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) in order to begin the work of ensuring the future of the Roundsnout galaxias (letter included). Our request comes about following advice from the Federal Minister's Department of Environment Energy Climate Change and Water (DEECCW) (a copy which also included).

The MAS seeks your Ministerial support for this initiative as the decisions regarding the next round of the NHT will shortly be made. We are also of the opinion that stocking bans for trout will not in themselves work to safeguard the future of the Roundsnout galaxias.

We hope that you, as the Minister for Agriculture, will see this request as a genuine attempt to find:

- i. solutions to an environmental issue that could either see another NSW fish species move to extinction or recover and thrive into the future,
- ii. whilst maintaining the longstanding economic and social benefits that trout fishing brings to the Monaro and the Snowy Mountains region (a factor of very considerable relevance to the realisation of the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Master Plan).

Yours sincerely,

Kerry Pfeiffer
President, Monaro Acclimatisation Society