



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

Sustainable future fishing for trout and native fish

24nd April 2024

Mr. Dennis Barnes
Chief Executive Officer
Snowy Hydro
P.O. Box 332
Cooma NSW 2630.

Dear Mr. Barnes

Just a day ago I wrote to you pointing out what the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS) perceived to be the case regarding the development of the Snowy 2.0 Recreational Fishing Management Plan (RFMP). We since find that this plan has been written, been through the consultation process and finalised.

That this occurred is not the fault per se of the process as our Steve Samuels was consulted. That being said, the RFMP document passed through a rigorous process and was placed for public exhibition without being promoted or stakeholders being advised of its existence. We are disappointed that this has occurred as there are several things that this RFMP lacks in our opinion.

There are three issues that have not been covered or have been misrepresented:

- The RFMP is completely silent on the impact of Snowy 2.0 on shore-based angling. We believe that at least 50 per cent of the fishing effort on the impoundments of the Snowy Mountains is conducted on the banks by shore-based fishers. Indeed, for many anglers who use boats, they use them simply to get to the more inaccessible shorelines of the impoundments and then fish from the bank.
- There is no discussion about possible impacts of rising and falling water levels within Tantangara Dam as Snowy 2.0 comes into operation and what impact this might have on the fishery. If the water level rise and fall leads to muddied shorelines, it may be dangerous or, indeed, impossible for shore-based angling to take place. The rise and fall may impact on weed beds along the shallower shorelines, an important habitat for aquatic insects. The constant rise and fall in water levels may lead to changes in trout behaviour and they no longer become accessible to shore-based

anglers. The rise and fall may lead to greater turbidity along the shoreline making sight fishing for trout impossible.

- The economic revenue return benefit coming from recreational fishing within the Snowy Monaro region quoted in the RFMP is grossly underestimated and there is no recognition of the social benefits.

We note that this is not the end of the process and that the RFMP will be reviewed 5 years after the commencement of stocking activities from the new grow-out facility. For the MAS this timeframe is too long considering the importance we place on the issues stated above.

I apologise for any inference of lack of due process on Snowy Hydro's part in undertaking the RFMP process. I do hope, however, that I have been able to shed some light on issues that we think should have been more carefully considered within the RFMP document and that the process of distribution and promotion needs to be enhanced.

The above comments need to be seen in the context that the recreational fishing fraternity of the Snowy Monaro region feels it is under threat. There are stocking bans in place along our rivers, these same rivers and streams are being surveyed at ever increasing occurrences and processes occur and decisions are made that impact our access and enjoyment without consultation.

Yours sincerely

Kerry Pfeiffer
President
Monaro Acclimatisation Society