



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

Sustainable future fishing for trout and native fish

22nd April 2024

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

Dear Mr. Barnes

I am writing on behalf of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS) to seek an update on the status of the Snowy 2.0 Fishing Management Plan. This plan was a condition of the EIS for Snowy 2.0 and called for consultation with “relevant recreational fishing groups” – when can MAS expect to be consulted on the plan?

As you will be aware the MAS is the peak organisation representing anglers in South East NSW. We had a significant role in the establishment of a recreational offset later formalised with \$5 million being identified to establish a trout grow out facility.

We understand that under the Biosecurity and Fish Management requirements of the EIS, Snowy Hydro must minimise the impact of the development on recreational fishing in Tantangara Reservoir and Lake Eucumbene. A major part of meeting this objective was the development of the Recreational Fishing Plan within 12 months of the commencement of construction. We have so far not been informed of work commencing on the Plan. We have also not been informed of progress on the trout grow out facility. This facility will provide a safeguard measure to address any reduction in the trout population if redfin infiltrate the Snowy Lakes as a result of the operations of Snowy 2.0.

Tantangara Reservoir and surrounding streams are an iconic fishery. They are essentially a wild fishery in wild surroundings, and unlike Lakes Eucumbene and Jindabyne they are not stocked. The Reservoir and surrounds are very popular with anglers who appreciate this uniqueness, while Lake Eucumbene as you know is a mecca for anglers of all persuasions. It would not be going too far to suggest that the Snowy Lakes are the core of NSW Trout Fisheries. It is for this reason that the Recreational Fishing Plan is so important in identifying threats to the Fishery, (or for that matter benefits) arising from the operation of Snowy 2.0 so that they can be, as far as possible, managed.

Apart from the threat of Redfin entering the system we have several other concerns. Chief amongst these is the effect that the rise and fall of Tantangara during the normal operations will have on fishing opportunities. Regular and frequent rises and falls of the water level are likely to render the edges of the lake sterile making them unattractive for both trout and anglers. This could heavily disadvantage your average family anglers and fly fishers who predominately fish from the shore, while increasing the need for boat launching facilities. So far, we have not been able to obtain from any source information regarding the expected rise and fall.

Another concern has arisen this season. As you would be aware Tantangara suffered a large blue green algal bloom this summer resulting in a major fish kill. While this is most likely to have occurred because of high ambient temperatures and/or increased nutrient loads in the reservoir from effects of recent wildfires and feral horses, we are concerned whether the water being continually pumped up from Talbingo in the future will be warmer than that in Tantangara, and therefore increase the risk of future algal outbreaks.

We look forward to the work commencing on the Recreational Fishing Plan and we are ready to work with Snowy Hydro and other agencies to address these and other issues affecting angling opportunities in this important fishery.

Yours Sincerely

Mr. Kerry Pfeiffer
President, Monaro Acclimatisation Society