

Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc
9 Thompson Drive
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Sustainable future fishing for trout and native fish

Dr Nathan Miles
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Freshwater Ecosystems
70 Buckingbong Rd,
Gillenbah NSW 2700.

cc
Jim Harnwell
and NSWCFA

Dear Nathan

MAS has had some visibility of the EIS for Snowy Hydro 2.0. We've been heavily engaged with the issue of possible translocation of English Perch, and the subsequent Recreational Fishing Offset (the trout grow out facility at Gaden).

Early in the Snowy Hydro 2.0 development, MAS made enquiries over how much the lake level might change during the generate/pump cycle which we anticipate will be intra-day. At the time, this data was not provided, and I understand a 'commercially sensitive' label was applied. Since then, we've seen some detail from another pumped hydro scheme, that on Lake Lyall, where I understand a level change of 3m is envisaged. This project is at an early stage so perhaps you've not been involved yet. Given the larger scale of Snowy Hydro 2.0, but also the larger scale of the waterways one can't extrapolate to this scheme, however Lyall gives some grounds for concern.

We understand that in Snowy Hydro's analysis of the threat of English Perch translocation, and more significantly the possibility of successful reproduction in Tantangara Reservoir, that the periodic exposure and drying of shallow water weeds was seen to reduce the opportunity for English Perch reproduction. MAS is concerned whether this same observation might impact on food sources of trout in Tantangara. While we have observed that the lake trout seem to have a preference for yabbies, depending upon the extent of the level change, and its speed/repetition there may be an impact on yabbies. Repetitive drying of shallow water weeds presumably will have knock-on effect up the food chain.

Have you been engaged with the full extent of the Snowy Hydro 2.0 EIS/biohazard analysis? What were your observations in respect to the trout food chain?

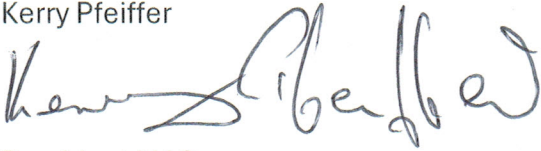
MAS has wondered whether there might be a need to explore floating islands of weed, and even yabbie habitat, to cope with the surface level variability. Is this something that you have seen any research on?

There may not be a normal generation cycle for Snowy Hydro 2 given the way Snowy Hydro sells it's electricity through guaranteed price stabilization, but if there was, and for modelling purposes this question must have been raised. What would be the daily rise and fall of Tantangara's water level.

We would like to thank you in advance if you have the time to respond to our enquiries.

Yours Sincerely

Kerry Pfeiffer

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

President MAS
25th March 2024