

**The Hon Tara Moriarty MLC**

Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Regional New South Wales  
Minister for Western New South Wales



Ref: MF24/292

The Hon. Steve Whan MP  
Member for Monaro  
Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education  
213 Crawford Street,  
QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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Re: Trout stocking bans

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 7 February 2024 on behalf of Mr Kerry Pfeiffer, president of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS), regarding Trout stocking.

As you may be aware, the NSW Trout fishery provides important socio-economic contributions, especially in regional and rural areas such as the Monaro. This fishery is carefully managed to ensure that recreational fishing outcomes are balanced with measures to protect threatened species populations.

The NSW Government's work in producing and stocking Trout involves valued assistance from volunteer groups such as the MAS.

I am advised that the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries initially met with representatives of the MAS on 21 December 2023 to discuss proposed changes to stocking sites in some rivers and streams in the Monaro region for the 2024-25 stocking season. An additional meeting also took place between DPI Fisheries and Mr Pfeiffer on 8 February 2024, to further discuss the changes and the reasons they are proposed.

I understand at both meetings MAS representatives were informed that 19 of the 149 sites that MAS volunteers stock with Trout in the Monaro region would be required to be moved to alternative sites in the same waterways and/or catchment areas.

It is noted that no changes to the numbers of Trout to be stocked by the MAS in the Monaro were or are proposed.

These stocking site changes involve the provision of additional protection to endangered species and are required under state and federal legislation. They will also provide the balance required for environmental protections with the continued delivery of the high-quality Trout fishing opportunities for which the Monaro is renowned.

You will be interested to note that Mr Pfeiffer also wrote to me on 12 February 2024, outlining concerns about the stocking site changes while confirming that MAS intends to continue working collaboratively with my department to stock Trout for the benefit of the community.

Please be assured that I look forward to responding to Mr Pfeiffer to thank him for his organisation's valuable work over many years in enhancing Trout fishing in the Monaro region. I will also take the opportunity to present opportunities for groups like the MAS to join with the Government in identifying and developing options to further balance protection of our unique native fish species while maintaining the socio-economic benefits provided by the Trout fishery.

I trust this is of assistance, however, I have asked Mr Jim Harnwell, Program Leader, Fish Stocking & Enhancement Operations, DPI Fisheries, to be available to answer any further questions you or the MAS may have. Mr Harnwell can be contacted on 0428 610 879 or by email at jim.harnwell@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



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19 / 3 / 2024