



Please forward this letter to as many of your fishing friends as possible.

Closure of Gaden Trout Hatchery

A century of trout stocking poured down the drain for a short term gain.

Fellow anglers,

The NSW government has announced in its Mini-budget of 11 November 2008 cost-cutting measures including *“Consolidation of excess offices and research stations over the next three years at Alstonville, Berry, Condobolin, Glen Innes, Gosford, Griffith, Temora, and Jindabyne Hatchery.”*

On 12 November Hon Ian Macdonald, Minister for Primary Industries announced in a media release *“Eight facilities that are no longer needed by the Department will be closed,”* he said. *“These facilities are at Alstonville, Berry, Condobolin, Glen Innes, Gosford, Griffith, Jindabyne Hatchery and Temora.”*

So, the primary trout hatchery in NSW, with its irreplaceable stock of disease free trout and salmon, is ‘no longer needed’!

The importance of Gaden Trout Hatchery to our trout fishery in NSW hardly needs explaining to fellow anglers, but it appears that the State government doesn’t understand it at all, and is prepared to shut or flog off the most important trout fishery asset built in NSW in the last 120 years of trout fishing.

The only way to stop this happening is to put immediate and intense pressure on the State government to stop the sale or closure. If you have any interest at all in the future of trout fishing as a pastime, or in the future of the economies of many regional centres in NSW that depend on fishing based tourism, PLEASE take some time and contact as many people as you can, by post, email or phone, and make your views clear.

You should contact members of the NSW Labor government, asking them to reverse this decision; you should ask members of the NSW opposition parties for support on this issue; you should contact local government mayors and councillors and express your concern that closure of Gaden Trout Hatchery will affect local economies; and you should raise the issue in local newspapers.

When writing your letters...

- Write to as many people as possible.
- Keep your letters clear, polite and to the point.
- Address to each person individually (ie not a photocopied letter or group email)
- The portfolios of politicians are noted below—make points that are relevant to their particular portfolios.
- Also write to your local NSW Member of Parliament. If that person is not listed below, find their contact details on the NSW Parliament website, www.parliament.nsw.gov.au.
- Do not send attachments with emails—put your message directly into the body of the email.
- Numerous individual letters will be more influential than petitions.

Key issues to raise are:

- The importance of trout stocking in NSW—hatcheries have been needed for over a century to sustain the recreational trout fishery in streams and impoundments.
- The importance of hatcheries being managed by government and anglers who have a desire for equitable and ongoing availability of fish stocks for public angling.
- The pivotal role of trout fishing in the Snowy Mountains economy, including jobs based on angling tourists (estimated in 2001 by Dominion Consulting as \$70 million per annum)
- The extraordinary contribution made by recreational anglers, clubs and acclimatisation societies over the past 100 years, volunteering time and effort and contributing the financial support that made Gaden Trout Hatchery possible in the first place.
- The State government's ongoing dependence on acclimatisation societies to distribute fish from the Gaden Trout Hatchery.
- The unique importance of the disease-free trout, brook trout and Atlantic salmon stock held at Gaden.
- The lack of any other hatchery operation in the State capable of producing significant amounts of disease free stock.
- The waste of over 50 years of investment in this valuable asset if it is sold to the private sector for short term financial gain.

Who to contact

An extensive list of suggested contacts follows. At the very least, please send letters to Premier Nathan Rees and Hon Steve Whan (Member for Monaro). Contact details are on the next page. Also please send a copy of your letters to Hon Secretary, NSW CFA, GPO Box 84, Sydney 2001, or if sending email messages, cc to the NSW CFA Hon Secretary Vladimir Diakiw, diakiwv@optusnet.com.au.

Please contact as many other people on the list as possible. And remember to send this letter on to other anglers and ask them to do the same.

People to write to, email or call

NSW government

The Hon Nathan Rees (ALP)

Premier of NSW

GPO Box 5341

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Phone (02) 9228 5239

Email thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au

The Hon Steve Whan (ALP)

Member for Monaro

110-112 Monaro Street

QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

Phone (02) 6299 4899

Email Monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon Ian Macdonald (ALP)

Minister for Primary Industries

Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower

1 Farrer Place

Sydney NSW 2000

Phone (02) 9228 3344

Email

macdonald.office@macdonald.minister.nsw.gov.au

The Hon Jodi McKay (ALP)

Minister for Tourism

Minister for Small Business

Level 37 Governor Macquarie Tower

1 Farrer Place

SYDNEY 2000

Phone (02) 9228 5668

Email Newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon Phillip Costa (ALP)

Minister for Rural Affairs

Minister for Regional Development

Level 34 Governor Macquarie Tower

1 Farrer Place

SYDNEY 2000

Phone (02) 9228 5055

Email office@costa.minister.nsw.gov.au

The Hon Kevin Greene (ALP)

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Level 36 Governor Macquarie Tower

1 Farrer Place

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Phone(02) 9228 5331

Email office@greene.minister.nsw.gov.au

NSW opposition and other parties

Mr Andrew Fraser (Nationals)

Shadow Minister for Primary Industries
1/9 Park Avenue,
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450
Phone (02) 6652 6500
Email coffsharbour@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Mr Barry O'Farrell (Liberals)

Leader of the Opposition

Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone (02) 9230 2270
Email LQP@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Mr Andrew Stoner (Nationals)

Leader of The Nationals

Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone (02) 9230 2281
Email oxley@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Mr Adrian Piccoli (Nationals)

Shadow Minister for Regional Development

NSW Government Offices
104-110 Banna Avenue,
GRIFFITH NSW 2680
Phone (02) 6962 6644
Email Murrumbidgee@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon. Duncan Gay (Nationals)

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council

Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Phone (02) 9230 2329
Email duncan.gay@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon George Souris (Nationals)

Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation

98 Bridge Street,
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333
Phone (02) 6543 1065
Email upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Mr Donald Page (Nationals)

Shadow Minister for Tourism

Shop 1, 7 Moon Street,
BALLINA NSW 2478
Phone (02) 6686 7522
Email ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon. Robert Brown (The Shooters Party)

Member of the Legislative Council

Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Phone (02) 9230 3059
Fax (02) 9230 2613
Email Robert.brown@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Local government

Mr John Cahill

Mayor, Snowy River Shire Council

2 Myack Street, Berridale
Telephone: (02) 6451 1195
Email records@snowyriver.nsw.gov.au

Other Snowy River Shire councillors to write to at same address:

Deputy Mayor Councillor Neen Pendergast

Councillor Peter Beer

Councillor Bob Frost

Councillor Tony Hayes

Councillor Jan Leckström

Councillor Kris Laird

Councillor John Shumack

Councillor Bill Smits

Mr Vin Good

Mayor, Cooma-Monaro Shire Council

81 Commissioner Street
Cooma 2630
Telephone: (02) 6450 1777
Email: council@cooma.nsw.gov.au

Other Cooma-Monaro Shire councillors to write to at same address:

Martin Hughes - Councillor

Tony Kaltoum - Councillor

Jenny Lawlis - Councillor

Dean Lynch - Councillor

Stephanie McDonald - Councillor

Roger Norton - Councillor

Jack Nott - Councillor

Winston Phillips - Councillor

Federal government

Although the Federal government has no direct say in the way recreational fishing is run in NSW, you can still express your dissatisfaction about the NSW Labor government's closure of Gaden Trout Hatchery to:

The Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM, MP (ALP)

Federal Member for Eden Monaro

PO Box 6022

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Email mike.kelly.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon Tony Burke MP (ALP)

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

PO Box 6022

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Email tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au

Letters to the editor

Mr Martyn Pearce

Editor, Cooma-Monaro Express

51-55 Massie Street

Cooma NSW 2630

Email editor.cmexpress@ruralpress.com

Ms Gail Eastaway

Editor, Monaro Post

220-226 Sharp Street

Cooma, NSW, 2630

Email info@monaropost.com.au

Letters to the Editor

Daily Telegraph

PO Box 2808

Sydney, NSW 2001

Email yoursay@dailytelegraph.com.au

Letters to the Editor

Sydney Morning Herald

GPO Box 3771

Sydney 2001

Email letters@smh.com.au

Letters to the Editor

Canberra Times

9 Pirie Street

Fyshwick ACT 2609

Email letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

A short history of Gaden Trout Hatchery

Early hatcheries in the Snowy Mountains

The New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society was involved in the construction of the first hatchery in the Snowy Mountains at the old Kosciusko Hotel on Diggers Creek in 1907. In 1924 that hatchery was dismantled and re-erected near the site of The Creel guest house. This hatchery became a joint operation of the Society, the Fisheries Department and the NSW Tourist Bureau. It was closed in 1941 because of the war and later the equipment, along with that from the Caldwell Hatchery on the Maclaughlin River, was used to construct the Gaden Trout Hatchery on the Thredbo River at Jindabyne.

There was also a very early hatchery at Cooma, built around 1929 by local enthusiasts of the Cooma Fishermen's Club. The hatchery equipment and building was moved to the Caldwell Hatchery on the Maclaughlin River in 1939 by members of the recently formed Monaro Acclimatisation Society and much of the same equipment was later used to build the Gaden Trout Hatchery on the Thredbo.

The Gaden Trout Hatchery

After the end of the War, the Monaro Acclimatisation Society reviewed the operation of the Caldwell Hatchery and realised that the water supply at the hatchery site was inadequate.

In May 1948 an inspection of a site on the Thredbo River at Paddys Corner owned by Mr Bill Naphthali was carried out by representatives from Fisheries Branch, the Department of Public Works, the Monaro Acclimatisation Society and the Shire Council. Work commenced shortly afterwards—the old Creel Hatchery building was erected on site to provide temporary accommodation for the hatchery supervisor, Mr Reuben Payten, who started work with the assistance of volunteers from the Monaro Acclimatisation Society.

The Caldwell and Tumut Hatcheries ceased operations after the 1950 season and their buildings were dismantled and transported to the new Thredbo Hatchery and re-erected. Much of the equipment from the three older hatcheries was recycled.

The official opening occurred on 31 October 1953, although work was not complete. The new complex was named the Gaden Trout Hatchery after Mr Jim Gaden, one of the pioneers in trout acclimatisation in the area.

By 1956-57 Gaden Trout Hatchery as well as Burruga Hatchery and LP Dutton Hatchery at Ebor were completed but production of ova from brood fish was inadequate—some 500,000 being obtained which was supplemented by about 800,000 ova imported by the acclimatisation societies which were encountering some financial difficulties in meeting costs.

Therefore during 1957-58, discussions started between the acclimatisation societies and the NSW Government about management of the three main hatcheries being passed to the Fisheries Department. On 1 January 1959, on the recommendation of the Trout Advisory Council following a request from the three major acclimatisation societies, Gaden Trout Hatchery, LP Dutton Hatchery and Burruga Hatchery came under the control of the Fisheries Branch, Chief Secretary's Department with supervisors being appointed to each hatchery. In 1960-61 Burruga Hatchery was closed and its equipment relocated to Gaden.

Over the past 50 years the Gaden Trout Hatchery has been run by a dedicated succession of managers and staff, supported by members of the acclimatisation societies and other fishing clubs. The facilities have been continually improved, indeed in the last couple of years approximately \$240,000 of anglers' fishing licence trust fund money has been poured into the facility to build a new hatching shed.