



Department of
Primary Industries

Snapshot of NSW Trout Strategy



www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

INTRODUCTION

The NSW Government aims to create sustainable freshwater fisheries resources so that all anglers, both current and future, can share in this exceptional resource.

The trout strategy aims to provide a framework to firstly better develop and enhance the NSW recreational trout fishery and secondly to recognise and promote an awareness of the broad range of benefits that trout fishing offers the people of NSW and abroad.

The government is committed to the ongoing maintenance and development of high quality trout fisheries in NSW in conjunction with stakeholders.



KEY GOALS – IMPROVING TROUT FISHING IN NSW

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ANGLER ENGAGEMENT

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RESEARCH

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MANAGEMENT

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HATCHERIES AND STOCKING

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FISH HABITAT

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CONTINUE NATIVE FISH STOCKING

ANGLER ENGAGEMENT

- We will continue to hold regular regional meetings and work with stakeholders, angling groups and individual anglers to develop and implement the trout strategy, communicate the status of the trout strategy and trout fishery programs.



- **Communication Strategy**

We will engage in a positive way with anglers to ensure that our communication is clear, concise and timely. By improving our communication we will ensure that anglers are aware of the current issues and trends that affect trout fishing across the State.



- **Acc. Societies, fishing clubs and individuals**

Continue to work with acclimatisation societies on stocking decisions and involve the broader angling community in habitat restoration and citizen science associated with tournaments and club events.



- **Angler Access Website**

NSW DPI Fisheries has developed a fishing access website to identify points of legal access to waterways. This is delivered on a river reach basis to provide anglers with information that will assist them to legally access waterways for recreational fishing.

www.angleraccessdev.dpi.nsw.gov.au



RESEARCH EVALUATION OF NATURAL SPAWNING AND RECRUITMENT

■ Trout populations surveys (recruitment and abundance)

Undertake trout population surveys in identified trout reference water bodies in northern, central and southern NSW. The trout population surveys will allow us to develop scorecards on how the fishery is tracking and provide information on stocking success, relative abundance and fish sizes. The development of these scorecards will form an important part of our Communication Strategy.



■ Snowy Lakes monitoring

Fish counters and field surveys will be used to monitor the timing and length of the spawning season in the Thredbo and Eucumbene Rivers. This monitoring work will provide data on stocking effectiveness (tag returns) along with size structure of the population. Hydroacoustic monitoring will be used to develop a better understanding of trout populations and overall biomass in lakes. This will also be supported through increased understanding of Lake Limnology with factors such as food webs, nutrient cycles, river inflows and water quality to be investigated. Overall, the monitoring programs will assist with understanding population trends and stocking effectiveness in the Snowy Lakes.



■ Recreational catch & effort monitoring (angler surveys)

A range of angler survey tools (creel surveys, smartphone apps, online surveys, automated counters) will be used to better understand how our recreational trout fisheries are performing and being used by anglers. These surveys will provide information on catch, effort and angler satisfaction. This will help monitor the status of our recreational trout fisheries across a range of river and lake environments (e.g., Thompson Creek Dam).



■ **Climate change (water temperature monitoring)**

Research will be undertaken into the temperature range of existing stocked and listed trout waters to determine if they remain viable as trout waters. Research will also seek to determine if some wild populations of trout are more adapted to warmer waters.

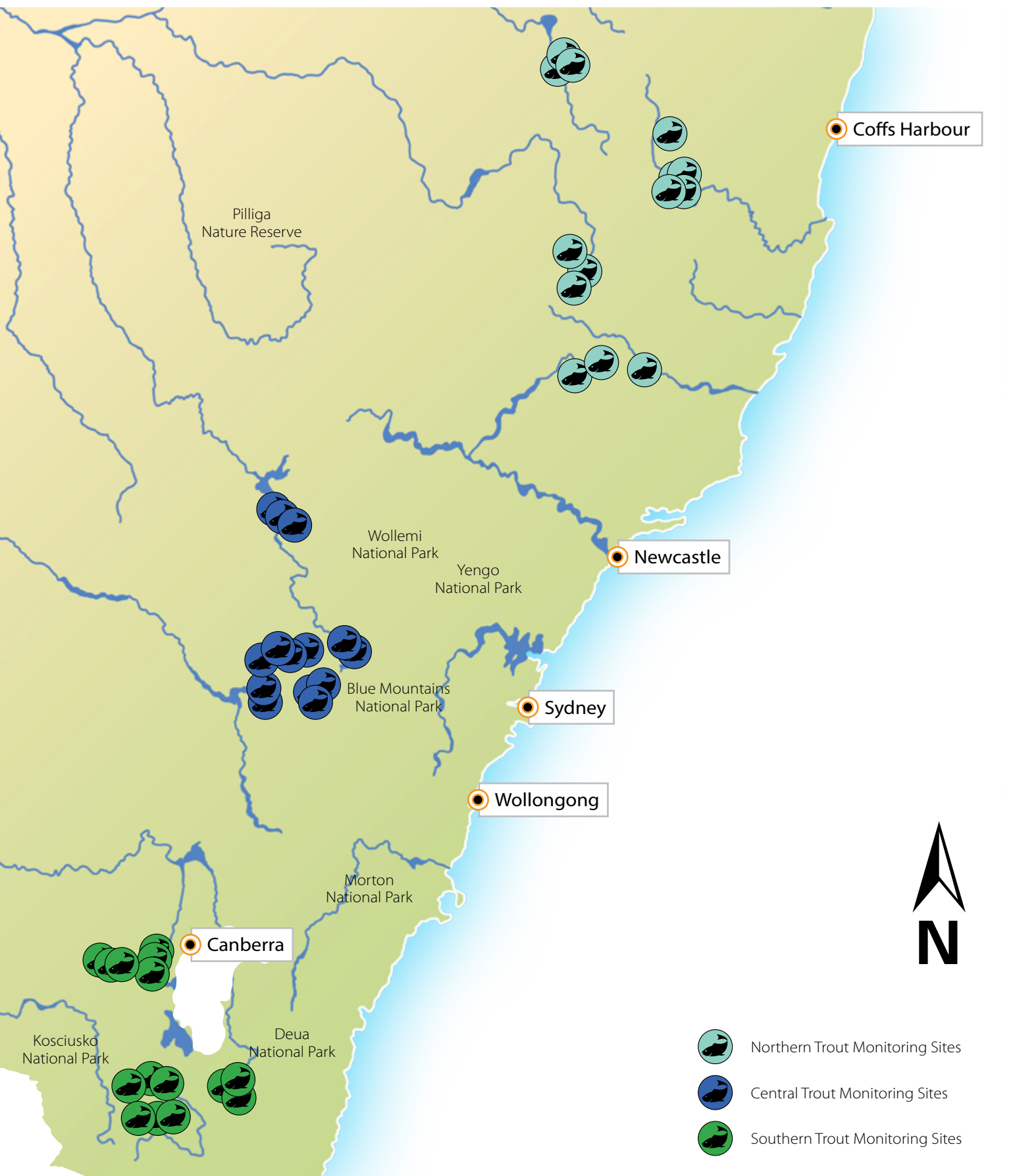


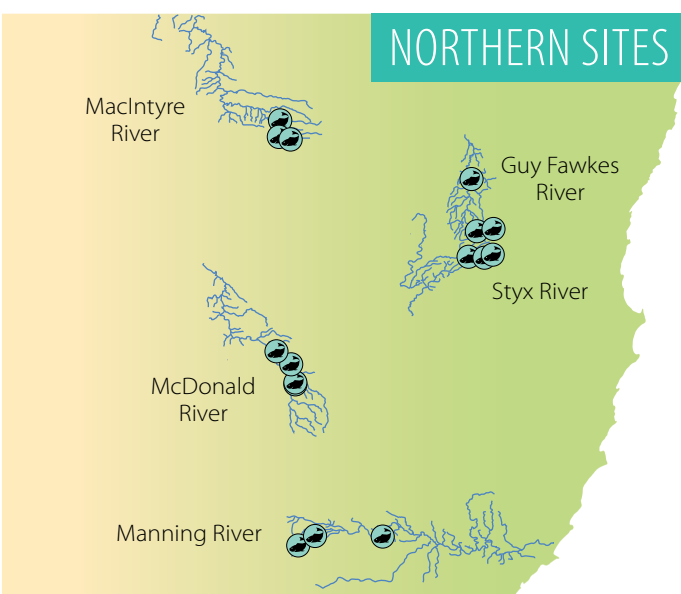
■ **Citizen science**

NSW DPI Fisheries will investigate opportunities to engage citizens in scientific data collection to assist with the future research and management of the recreational trout fishery. Immediate feedback will be provided via Smartphone app. Anglers will also be invited to provide fish frames for ageing, growth and tagging studies.



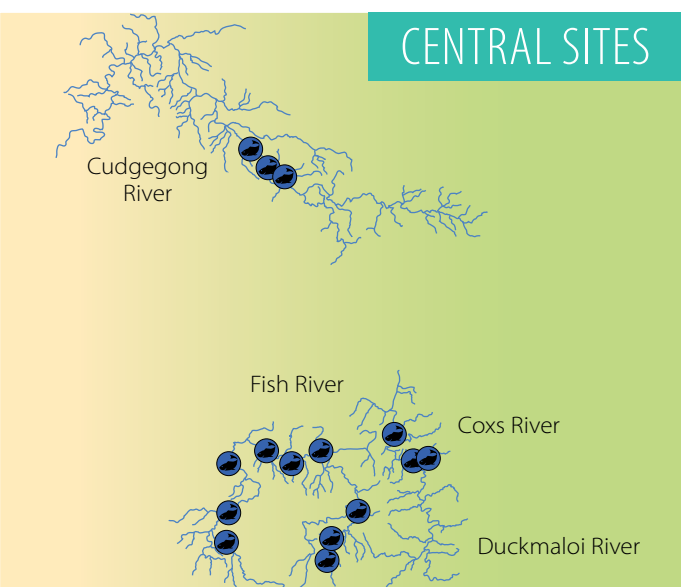
TROUT MONITORING SITES





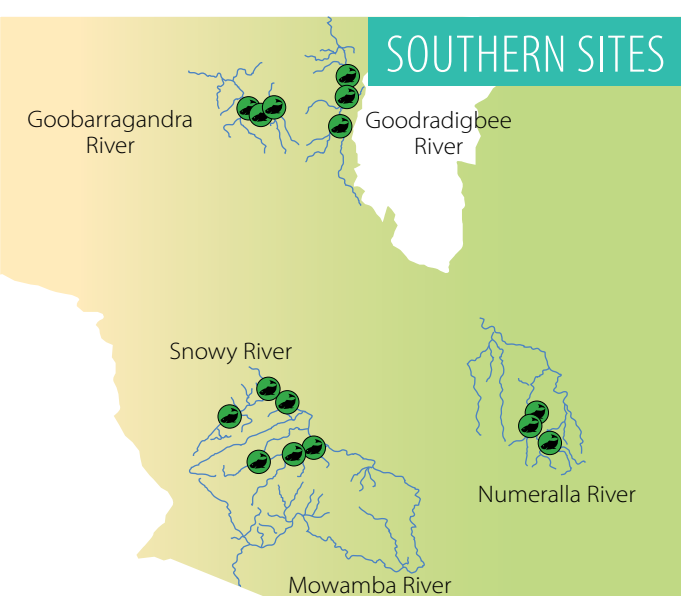
Northern Trout Monitoring Sites

Waterway	Site	Coordinates
Guy Fawkes River	Ebor	-30.404659, 152.348607
Guy Fawkes River	Majors Point Rd Bridge	-30.396033, 152.382973
Guy Fawkes River	Bees Nest Trail	-30.146332, 152.305982
Manning River	Manning River Campground	-31.880016, 151.490482
Manning River	Gummi Rd	-31.859298, 151.551508
Manning River	Thunderbolts Way	-31.858729, 151.878854
Styx River	Little Styx Campground	-30.507985, 152.366581
Styx River	Thungutti Campground	-30.500473, 152.387512
Styx River	Jeans Rd	-30.517793, 152.302520
MacIntyre River	Elsmore Rd	-29.899849, 151.402615
MacIntyre River	Paradise Creek	-29.873849, 151.408246
MacIntyre River	Querra Creek	-29.928443, 151.441038
MacDonald River	Niangala Rd	-31.034689, 151.437110
MacDonald River	Surveyors Creek	-30.983745, 151.385841
MacDonald River	D/S Cobrabald River	-31.096038, 151.465838
MacDonald River	Alternate – Cobrabald River	-31.103463, 151.466799



Central Trout Monitoring Sites

Waterway	Site	Coordinates
Campbell's River	Swallows Nest Rd	-33.784802, 149.604983
Campbell's River	Rockley farm	-33.707863, 149.612088
Campbell's River	Below Chifley Dam	-33.5597442, 149.613327
Fish River	Tarana Rd	-33.520963, 149.859105
Fish River	Mutton Falls Rd	-33.547595, 149.792032
Fish River	O'Connell Rd	-33.525740, 149.723684
Cox's River	Glenroy Cottages & Camp	-33.549633, 150.148111
Cox's River	River Lett above Campground	-33.545858, 150.165123
Cox's River	Marrangaroo NP	-33.472278, 150.08335
Duckmaloi River	Burrough's Crossing	-33.770289, 149.901724
Duckmaloi River	Duckmaloi Rd	-33.698928, 149.971718
Duckmaloi River	Springmount Rd	-33.818745, 149.898484
Cudgegong River	Melrose Bridge	-32.650249, 149.672501
Cudgegong River	Riverlea Bridge	-32.692702, 149.720768
Cudgegong River	Below Windamere	-32.716966, 149.760584



Southern Trout Monitoring Sites

Waterway	Site	Coordinates
Goobarragandra River	Stokes Hut Trail	-35.426417, 148.450842
Goobarragandra River	Ugly Creek	-35.439725, 148.491813
Goobarragandra River	Emu Flat Creek	-35.428197, 148.512971
Goodradigbee River	Flea Creek	-35.335860, 148.754104
Goodradigbee River	Brindabella Rd	-35.384628, 148.744323
Goodradigbee River	McLeods Spur Trail	-35.478628, 148.729641
Mowamba River	Barry Way	-36.479997, 148.590723
Mowamba River	Snowy River Way	-36.461234, 148.636469
Mowamba River	Moonbah Hut	-36.501124, 148.481695
Numeralla River	Grannys Flat Creek	-36.397575, 149.303505
Numeralla River	Shannon Rd Firetrail	-36.443968, 149.361701
Numeralla River	Dangelong Nature Reserve	-36.361321, 149.324711
Snowy River	Snowy portal Bridge	-36.289985, 148.510933
Snowy River	D/S Guthega Pondage	-36.362021, 148.392946
Snowy River	U/S Lake Jindabyne	-36.316602, 148.548791

MANAGEMENT

A number of management activities will be reviewed to determine if they are relevant and contributing to a vibrant trout fishery in NSW.

- Changes to the fishing season in areas of high stocking density and early spawning activity.
- Standardise conflicting trout stream categories.
- Explore in providing fishing access to tailrace fisheries and open up waters to year-round fishing, especially near regional towns and centres.
- Review bag size, gear changes and closures.
- Work co-operatively with the trout acclimatisation societies to categorise and prioritise rivers to be stocked to optimise trout stocking effectiveness. A scorecard of relevant water quality features will be developed to assist with stocking decisions.
- Undertake and facilitate monitoring and research on a range of aspects of the trout fishery in order to provide data for informed management decisions.
- Continue with effective compliance and educational programs.



HATCHERIES AND STOCKING

■ Improved hatchery facilities

Investing in re-circulation systems, shading and heater/chiller units to provide a temperature controlled environment for fish in order to increase fish metabolism and enable fish releases to be conducted when environmental conditions are at their optimum.

■ Increase the size of fish stocked (where beneficial)

In impoundments where Redfin are present, stock larger trout to mitigate the negative effects of this pest species. Stocking larger fish is extremely popular with fishers, and provides a short-term boost to local tourism.

Note: there are significant limitations on the abilities of the hatcheries to produce and transport large numbers of larger trout and the majority of trout stocking will continue to be based on fry and fingerlings.



FISH HABITAT

- **Map trout habitat and spawning aggregation**

Concentrate on upland western facing stream reaches (greater shading provides trout refuges and helps to reduce downstream water temperatures).

- **Investigate the feasibility of constructing in-stream trout habitat and spawning beds**

- **Undertake riparian revegetation to decrease water temperatures and increase food availability**

- **Undertake robust monitoring and evaluation of instream rehabilitation sites**

- **ID 5 key trial sites in each region and aim to improve 1 per year**



CONTINUE WITH NATIVE FISH STOCKING

- The decision to create a mixed fisheries will be undertaken in close consultation with recreational anglers. Some of the factors to be considered are:
 - » Increase competition for pest species
 - » Increase fishing opportunities for anglers
 - » Consider stocking native fish in areas considered marginal for trout and/or where Carp and Redfin persist. This will help create year-round trout/mixed fishery opportunities and will help achieve an ecosystem balance. Murray Cod, Australian Bass and Golden Perch are known to predate on Redfin.

There are additional opportunities for stocking Australian Bass in trout waters, as shown by Lake Lyell and Lake Wallace. The impact on trout is case by case, but is likely to be neutral or positive and primarily climate dependent. Mixed fisheries are always better than trout fisheries dominated by Carp or Redfin.



Snapshot of the NSW Trout Strategy

If you wish to provide feedback or have further questions about the Trout Strategy please email: **fish.stocking@dpi.nsw.gov.au**



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