



NATIVE FISH AUSTRALIA (Vic) Inc.

www.nativefish.asn.au

PO Box 162 Doncaster 3108

13 July 2020

Melissa Horne
Minister for Fishing and Boating
Level 22, 1 Spring Street
Melbourne 3000

Dear Melissa,

Re: Reintroduction of a recreational fishery for Trout cod

Native Fish Australia (Vic) was formed in the early 1980s as a wholly volunteer representative organisation, with the main aims to promote and protect native fish species for future recreational angling. Since inception we have advocated for native fish by organising numerous public live fish displays, regular talks to community and angling groups and participation at countless meetings and workshops on the future of native fish. This has included running an endangered native fish hatchery, and advocacy for better management and regulations for native fish.

Some points

- The IUCN Red List entry for Trout cod was downgraded in 2019 from Endangered to Vulnerable. As per Koehn, J., Lintermans, M., Lieschke, J. & Gilligan, D. 2019. *Maccullochella macquariensis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019:
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/12574/123378211>
- Experience from the Ovens River in Victoria & the Murrumbidgee River in NSW has demonstrated that intensive stocking of the species has led to healthy self-sustaining populations that continuing to expand.
- Many other self-sustaining & growing populations across Victoria and NSW.
- Both NSW and Victorian fisheries have demonstrated that they can produce significant numbers of Trout cod on an as required basis.
- NFA (Vic) has found over many years there is an as yet unmet demand for access to Trout cod within the angling community.

- There have been many unfulfilled promises made by the VFA regarding the opening of a Trout cod fishery, the latest of these being just prior to the 2018 Codference.
- Both the National & Victorian recovery plan for Trout cod includes provision for the reestablishment of a recreational fishery.

In view of these facts, NFA (Vic) strongly believes it is now time to properly develop an implementation plan for the reintroduction of a recreational fishery for Trout cod. As an immediate action NFA (Vic) requests a face to face meeting with you and key stakeholders with a view to establish firm goals and timelines for the reestablishment of a Trout cod recreational fishery.

Yours faithfully,

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

Tim Curmi
President
Native Fish Australia (Vic) Inc
0417 419 765

CC

Peter Walsh – Shadow Minister for Agriculture
Adam Marshall – NSW Minister for Agriculture
Jenny Aitchison – NSW Shadow Minister for Primary Industries