

MEDIA RELEASE

Gladstone Area Water Board looks to the future

Annual Report highlights recreation, capital projects and renewed focus on water security

The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) has released its 2018-19 Annual Report, showcasing impressive new Lake Awoonga visitor statistics, capital project investments and a renewed focus on water security for the region.

With more than 70,000 recorded recreational visitors in the last 12 months, Lake Awoonga has cemented itself as a favourite destination for locals and tourists alike.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said the long-term Lake Awoonga fish restocking program had transformed the dam into a 'must see' for anglers Australia wide.

"Lake Awoonga is synonymous with Barramundi fishing not only in the Gladstone region, but Australia wide. "We know that 4-in-5 Gladstone residents visit Lake Awoonga and Boynedale Bush Camp at least once a year and 1-in-4 at least once a month. More than half of those visitors go fishing.

"Our restocking program is not only benefiting the Lake Awoonga environment but it's indirectly supporting the region's visitor economy and fishing tourism sector."

More than 500,000 fingerlings were released into Lake Awoonga during 2018-19 prior to the closure of the GAWB Fish Hatchery, with a new facility due to be constructed next year.

The Report also outlines GAWB's strategic plans, highlighting projects aimed at ensuring long term water supply and proactive drought management in the Gladstone region.

"Our customers and the Gladstone community expect a high degree of reliability and water security from GAWB," Mr Barlow said.

"In the last 12 months we have successfully commissioned our \$35 million Offline Water Storage Facility, giving us the ability to provide 10-12 days of uninterrupted water supply in the event Awoonga Dam is taken offline."

GAWB has also commenced a comprehensive review of its Contingent Supply Strategy, assessing how it will respond to either significant demand increases or supply shortages due to drought.

“We provided more than 50,000 megalitres of both treated and raw water to our customers in 2018-19 calendar year,” Mr Barlow said.

He said below average rainfall over the wet season had resulted in a steady decline in water levels, with dam capacity dropping by 17% during the reporting period (as at 30 June 2019).

“Like the rest of Queensland, GAWB is extremely focused on ensuring we can continue to deliver safe and reliable water services to the Gladstone region despite increasingly challenging circumstances.”

GAWB’s full 2018-19 Annual Report can be found [here](#).

Key Facts and Statistics from the Report:

- Revenue: \$64.61 million
- Net Profit After Tax: \$2.64 million
- \$2.12 million dividend declared for 2018-19
- Supplied 11,152 megalitres of treated water
- Supplied 42,557 megalitres of raw water
- \$12.2 million invested in capital projects
- Commissioned \$35 million Offline Water Storage Facility
- Achieved 2,387 days lost time injury free
- Stocked Awoonga Dam with 555,870 fingerlings
- Treated 8 turtles at the marine turtle rehab centre
- Over 400 users and 600 catches registered in Track My Fish Lake Awoonga
- Almost 70,000 visitors to Boynedale Bush camp and Lake Awoonga Recreational Facilities
- \$32,000 contributed towards community projects and sponsorships.

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