



Friday 18 November 2022

### Gladstone Area Water Board launches new \$12 million aquaculture operation

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) has today marked the successful completion of its new \$12 million multi-species, purpose built fish hatchery, Aquaculture Gladstone, at Lake Awoonga in Central Queensland.

The facility operates two production trains and can produce up to 5 million Southern Strain Barramundi, Mangrove Jack and Sea Mullet fingerlings a year.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said the new hatchery would ensure GAWB meets its regulatory restocking obligations while providing quality research and educational opportunities to the public.

“Our hatchery represents one of the largest and most significant aquaculture breeding and restocking programs in Queensland.

“We have worked with specialist Australian company MainStream Aquaculture to develop a production process that optimises biological productivity and reduces our environmental footprint.

“With the new hatchery operational, we commenced sustainable restocking of endemic fish species in Awoonga Dam earlier this year. Our team is now working on plans that will drive the future growth and development of Queensland’s aquaculture industry through tourism, education, research and development.

“Our next milestone is the completion of our visitor information which will open to the public in April next year.”

Minister for Water and Member for Gladstone, the Hon. Glenn Butcher, said the launch of Aquaculture Gladstone will accelerate the future development and expansion of Central Queensland’s growing aquaculture sector.

“Lake Awoonga is synonymous with great barramundi fishing. This hatchery is capable of producing 5 million fingerlings a year at peak production, cementing Lake Awoonga as Queensland’s premier barramundi fish hatchery.

“And it’s not just about great fishing. Aquaculture Gladstone will promote economic development and enhance the lifestyle of Central Queenslanders through the many education, research, tourism and recreation opportunities it creates.”

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