



**Gladstone Area
Water Board**

MEDIA RELEASE

28 April 2026

GAWB releases \$5,000 pink tagged Barra ahead of Boyne Tannum HookUp

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) has once again backed the Boyne Tannum HookUp, releasing three pink tagged Barramundi into Lake Awoonga ahead of the 2026 event - each worth \$5,000 if caught during the competition.

These pink tagged fish are just some of the prized Barramundi swimming in Lake Awoonga. Lucky anglers can also fish for four Barramundi with two tags on each (one blue and one yellow on each fish). Each blue and yellow tagged Barramundi is worth \$25,000 and available to be caught at any time.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said the tagged fish competitions continued to attract anglers from across Queensland to Lake Awoonga.

"Lake Awoonga is a premier fishing destination, and the opportunity to reel in a cash prize Barra makes a visit even more rewarding," Mr Barlow said.

"But it's not just about fishing - Lake Awoonga is also a great place to hike, camp and enjoy the outdoors, any day of the year."

GAWB staff will be out in force over the HookUp weekend, encouraging the community to learn more about Aquaculture Gladstone and Lake Awoonga.

The team will be around to answer questions at Aquaculture Gladstone, at Look Out One at Awoonga Dam, open from 9am to 3pm over the weekend, with feeding of the big Barra each day at 11am.

The team will also be at the GAWB stall at Bray Park each afternoon, with our live fish display.

For full details of our opening hours and tour times, visit Gladstone Area Water Board on Facebook. We are also on Instagram – find us by searching for Aquaculture Gladstone.

Aquaculture Gladstone is a multi-species native fish hatchery operated by GAWB. Since opening in late 2022, the hatchery has bred and released more than one million Barramundi fingerlings into Lake Awoonga across the 2024 and 2025 stocking periods.

In addition to fish breeding, Aquaculture Gladstone features an interpretive display that offers visitors an accessible way to learn about native fish species, aquaculture, biosecurity and biological pest species.

The 2026 Boyne Tannum HookUp will be held from 1–3 May, with tickets available at www.boynetannumhookup.com.au.

Boyne Tannum HookUp – Pink Tagged Fish (\$5,000) important information

- GAWB has released three more live pink tagged Barramundi into Lake Awoonga.
- The pink tagged Barramundi released from previous years are also included in the competition.
- Each fish is worth \$5,000 if caught during the Boyne Tannum HookUp (1–3 May 2026).

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- To claim the \$5,000 prize, the fish must be entered under the Live Fish Category and have the tag checked by Boyne Tannum HookUp officials.

How to record your catch

- Photograph the Barramundi in line with the Barramundi Catch and Release rules, ensuring the pink tag is clearly visible, or
- Bring the live fish to the Live Fish Weigh-in Station, in accordance with event rules.

Outside the event period

- If caught at any other time, each pink tagged Barramundi is worth \$1,000.
- Take a clear photo of the tag and the fish and email it to aquaculturegladstone@gawb.qld.gov.au.

For full rules and conditions, visit www.boynetannumhookup.com.au/event-categories

Aquaculture Gladstone's \$100K Fish Challenge important information

- GAWB has released four live Barramundi into Lake Awoonga, each fitted with two tags (one blue and one yellow).
- Each tagged fish is worth \$25,000 and can be caught at any time.

If you catch one, anglers must:

- Take a photo of the full fish on a brag mat or ruler showing its length, and
- Take a closeup photo clearly showing the blue and yellow tag numbers.

Remove both tags, then release the fish back into the lake.

How to report your catch

- Call InfoFish Australia on 1800 077 001, and
- Bring the tags and photos to Aquaculture Gladstone, Look Out One, 865 Awoonga Dam Road, during opening hours.

Terms and conditions are available at www.aquaculturegladstone.com.au

ENDS

For further media enquiries, contact Peta Leveritt-Baker on (07) 4976 3000 or email media@gawb.qld.gov.au.