

MEDIA RELEASE

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25 years of Mangrove Jack research delivers outstanding results for Gladstone anglers

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) has produced almost 20,000 Mangrove Jack fingerlings, with a select number released into Lake Awoonga, marking the first successful release of the species from its state-of-the-art Aquaculture Gladstone facility.

This achievement follows 25 years of sustained research and development by GAWB's hatchery team.

It positions Aquaculture Gladstone as a world leader, believed to be the only facility successfully producing Mangrove Jack fingerlings for stocking at this scale.

Minister for Local Government and Water Ann Leahy said the release reflected a long-term investment in regional capability, science and innovation.

"Lake Awoonga is a critical water asset for the region, and this project shows how water infrastructure can deliver environmental, recreational and economic benefits at the same time," Minister Leahy said.

"This milestone highlights the important role GAWB plays to support regional communities, freshwater fishing and aquaculture innovation in Queensland."

Minister for Primary Industries Tony Perrett said it was a great outcome for Aquaculture Gladstone and for anglers visiting Lake Awoonga.

"Mangrove Jack is a highly valued species for anglers, and they play an important role in maintaining a healthy aquatic ecosystem," Minister Perrett said.

"This successful release is great news for recreational fishing, tourism and the local economy, and it reinforces Lake Awoonga's reputation as one of Queensland's premier freshwater fishing destinations.

"In addition, this great work by Aquaculture Gladstone highlights the potential for the State's Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme to include a marquee gamefish for freshwater fish stocking, with several SIPS dams already looking to get in on the action."

Assistant Minister and Member for Callide Bryson Head said the release demonstrated how regional investment delivers long-term benefits for communities.

"This project shows what's possible when you back regional expertise and innovation," Assistant Minister Head said.

"With the recent release of Mangrove Jack fingerlings, there has never been a better time to visit Lake Awoonga."

GAWB Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said it signified a major milestone for Aquaculture Gladstone.

"Fishing for Mangrove Jack is an exciting and challenging sport, and we know there is huge demand for anglers to fish these elusive fish," Mr Barlow said.

"The fingerlings may be small today, but they are future trophy fish."

“As we celebrate 25 years of Jacks at GAWB, I want to congratulate the Aquaculture Gladstone team for their hard work and dedication to this breeding program.”

For more information visit [Fishing at Lake Awoonga - Gladstone Area Water Board](#) .

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB), as a Queensland Government Bulk Water Supply Authority, delivers safe and reliable water services which promote economic development and enhance the lifestyle of regional Queensland. GAWB owns and operates Awoonga Dam, along with a network of pipelines, water treatment plants and other distribution infrastructure. GAWB also owns and operates Aquaculture Gladstone, a fish hatchery and interpretive display at Lookout One at Lake Awoonga. For more information about GAWB, please visit www.gawb.qld.gov.au

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