

Submission
No 778

INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING

Organisation: Barrington Club Inc

Name: Mr Max Dunford

Position: Hon President

Date received: 15/03/2010



The Barrington Club Inc.

Crenoicus harrisoni
Unique Barrington Tops
Crustacean

Founded 1950

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE ON RECREATIONAL FISHING

SUBMISSION BY THE BARRINGTON CLUB INC.

The Barrington Club Inc. is a voluntary organisation incorporated as an association under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 1984.

The club was formed in 1950 and currently represents 80 members, whose main interests include conservation of the Barrington Tops area.

Members, from all walks of life, take an active interest in a wide variety of recreational pursuits associated with Barrington Tops as follows:-

- The history of Barrington Tops.
- NPWS management of the area's National Parks.
- Bush walking.
- Fly fishing for trout.
- Photography.
- Geology.
- Preservation of threatened species.
- Management of Introduced species.

The club has a close affiliation with New Zealand's Rotorua Anglers Club. Many of our members also regularly fly fish the NSW Southern Highlands, Tasmania and New Zealand.

The Barrington Club is a founding member of the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers.

The club finances and is active in restocking waters on the Barrington Tops with Rainbow Trout.

The Club enjoys the distinction of being the local organisation having the longest continuous association with the formation and ongoing development of the Barrington Tops National Park.

CLUB OBJECTIVES

- (a) The promotion and development of trout fishing, skiing and bush walking in the area known as the Barrington Tops and its environs by:-
 - (i) Providing facilities for its members for their participation in these activities; and
 - (ii) Gathering and distributing among its members reliable information thereon.
- (b) Generally to encourage among its members and the public the maintenance and preservation of the natural beauty of the bush, flora and fauna.
- (c) The collation of topographical data and the encouragement of scientific and geographic studies in the area of the Club's operation.

FISHING CONCERNS

Since one of our prime activities is fly fishing for trout we have serious concerns for the continuity of this sport in NSW. There appears to be a lack of Government support, in fact contrary indications, for the future of trout in Australia. The following is an extract from our submission to the Department of Primary Industries re proposed management plan for the Barrington Tops National Park in 2002 and reflects our current concerns relative to fishing.

"BARRINGTON TOPS NATIONAL PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Scotch Broom.

Some priority should be given to this problem as the Barrington River and its surrounding plains are now overgrown and access to the river is almost non-existent.

Trout

It seems that this group has some socio-economic value and their effect on the environment is minimal. I am not aware of any figures available on this area, but as a comparison, as quoted by Steve Dunn NSW Director Of Fisheries, trout fishing in the Monaro district contributes \$70 million annually to the economy. A very high percentage of recreational activity in the Barrington Tops area involves trout fishing.

The following are some extracts from an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 25th. May 2002. Headed Fisheries Reels In a Noxious Predator.

- 1) *The Fisheries Scientific Committee declared "the introduction of fish outside their native habitat" as a key threatening process under NSW Threatened Species legislation.*
- 2) *The Deputy Chairman of the committee (Fisheries Scientific Committee) and research fellow at the Australian Museum John Paxton believes trout are a scourge on the environment. "I have always thought they are one of then most noxious species in Australia." He said.*
- 3) *The executive officer of the Nature Conservation Council, Kathryn Ridge said trout were not natural "We should be conducting a trout eradication program." She said.*
- 4) *They are thought to have been responsible for a catastrophic collapse in the population of some fish and amphibians. Almost nothing however is known about the impact of trout on invertebrates.*

All the above confirms that there is an agenda to rid NSW of this scourge on the environment, trout. It also confirms that there is minimal scientific approach to the subject. The Threatened Species Act relies on the guilt by suspicion principle. ie. there only has to be

rumour of a spotted tree frog or booroolong frog in a puddle adjacent to a trout stream and that stream will be banned from stocking. No EIS is required. However to get a stream off the banned list a full EIS has to be carried out by the pursuant. ie. you pay the bill for the EIS.

In Victoria Whites river - a tributary of Lake Eildon has been rotenoned (poisoned) to get rid of trout -

There is no scientific proof that predation by trout has led to the decline in the number of frogs. An international scientific committee compared 936 frogs from Australia, Europe, North and South America and reported in Science Nature 2000 that ;- The decline in frog numbers is global, not a local phenomena and is probably due to amphibians inability to cope with global warming, acid rain, disease and increased UV radiation due to the green house effect.

No mention of predation, let alone by trout.

*There are already 8 to 10 streams in the Southern Highlands that are banned for restocking. The number varies as a couple have been taken off the list when the Fisheries Dept discovered that they had made an honest mistake and banned an Eastern flowing stream claiming it contained booroolong frogs, which only inhabit Western flowing streams. Booroolong frogs were included as threatened species in the draft Plan of Management of Barrington Tops National Park. All streams in the Barrington Tops National Park are Southern and Eastern flowing.
So much for scientific evidence. ”*

Recent local University research has been conducted to establish the impact that trout actually have on various frog species. The researcher is one Simon Clulow. His findings indicate that trout predation is not the reason for frog decline.

I have been unable at short notice to find reference to Simon's address etc. However, Cameron Westaway, Inland Senior Fisheries Manager at Albury westerwayc@industry.nsw.gov.au could provide details.

We also have serious concerns relative to the spread of European Carp in NSW waterways.

It is hoped that your committee will address these concerns and we wish you success and look forward to learning the outcome of your deliberations.

Yours Faithfully
Max Dunford
President of The Barrington Club Inc.

Please address correspondence to
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