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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA – HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ADJOURNMENT SPEECH

Trout Fishing in Tasmania - World Fly-Fishing Championships

[6.25 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Minister for Primary Industries and Water) - Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on Tasmania's world-class wild brown Trout fishery and the Hodgman Liberal Government's support for our inland anglers. As the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, I am very proud to be the minister responsible for our Trout fishing in Tasmania. We have a world-class Trout fishery that attracts more than 26 000 licensed anglers each year, including 5000 interstate and overseas anglers. Tasmania's waters have one of the purest strains of the wild brown Trout around the world that was first introduced in 1864, 155 years ago.

As many here would know, I am a keen angler and I love my fishing, but unfortunately not enough time angling in Tasmania's great lakes and rivers, but often it is in my dreams. I do enjoy getting out and about when I can, and it is a special privilege to be the Minister responsible for Tasmania's inland fisheries.

I am proud of the Government's and the Budget's support for growing our world-class inland fisheries. I am proud of the fact that we have a range of initiatives that will support participation and growth in Tasmania's Trout fisheries, and those initiatives include making it easier to go Trout fishing. The Government has provided a \$300 000 commitment to freeze inland Trout fishing licences, at the 2017-18 prices, for four years.

We have provided funding support for Anglers Alliance Tasmania and congratulations and thanks to Gary France and the organisation for what you do in promoting and supporting our Trout fishery. That \$215 000 over four years goes to Anglers Alliance Tasmania, the peak body representing our Trout anglers.

The Government supports marketing angling tourism. Just last year, \$30 000 was provided to the Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania and, of course, to Anglers Alliance Tasmania, to market and promote angling tourism. The Tasmanian Trout Expo at Brumbys Creek at Cressy each year, is a fantastic weekend where you can catch that elusive \$10 000 Trout; a fantastic effort

by all the volunteers, and many thanks to them. I love attending each year.

The Anglers Alliance Access Program: the Government is providing \$200 000 for this year, through to 2021-22, to expand the IFS Anglers Access Program across priority lakes and rivers in the north-west, the north-east and Derwent catchments, in partnership with AAT and local angling clubs. The feedback I get from anglers that it is really appreciated, a wonderful initiative.

We are upgrading amenities at the high visitation Trout waters and the Government is providing \$300 000 over two years for the IFS, in collaboration with AAT, local councils and others to build and upgrade existing and new community amenities to support those high visitation fishing locations, which will be the focus of the World Fly Fishing Championships 2019, later this year.

A month or so ago, I was at Four Springs with a mate, and the base was being laid for a new toilet facility for anglers. That is going to be really appreciated and all those facilities are expected to be open by the beginning of the season, the first Saturday in August, this year. It is terrific; it is all on track.

The Trout weekend was held on 18 and 19 May at Liawenee, Great Lake. A fantastic weekend, I really enjoyed the event. Congratulations to the IFS and everyone involved in organising it. John Diggle and all of his team seemed to be up there and it was a fantastic effort. More than 3000 people attended over those two days and enjoyed the outstanding weather; a beautiful blue sky, yes, it was cold but blue-sky days, and the demonstration, the exhibits, the helicopter rides, were absolutely fantastic for all involved.

Many thanks to so many sponsors and supporters. AAT's Terry Byard was there, MAST's Lia Morris, Malcolm Crosse from the World Fly Fishing Championships organising committee, and so many others. The mums, dads and kids were enjoying fishing and checking out the annual spawning migration up the Liawenee Canal, and I had the opportunity to strip a number of Trout.

At the time I put on the record then and I put on the record now my thanks to the SES and those emergency services who fought the fires in January and February 2019. It was devastating. The Great Pine Tier bushfire burnt vegetation in the catchments and at Lake Echo as well as Nineteen Lagoons, Penstock Lagoon, Little Pine Lagoon, all important fishing destinations, but the fires did have a major impact on the economy of the Central Highlands. With all the access roads closed for a number of months during that peak fishing season it was hard but I put on record my thanks for those who fought so hard to protect those areas from the fires and say thank you to the Central Highlands Council and Mayor Lou Triffett especially for her leadership. Thanks also to the Great Lake community centre and the wonderful band of volunteers that did so much.

At the Trout fishing weekend we had the Tasmanian Trout fishing photo competition and I had the privilege of announcing the first prize to Shaun Cooper for a photo of a beautifully marked brown Trout from Lake Fergus and there were a number of prize winners that were acknowledged.

In short, many thanks to IFS for all the work and effort they did to put on that fantastic weekend. I ended up that night at the Westbury Fishing Club annual dinner and it was a really good night. A great time was had by all and it was a real privilege to hand out the awards but

in an unprecedented event for me; it was on election night. I spent an hour or two with the Westbury Fishing Club patrons and it was a lot of fun.

We have the world fly-fishing championships coming up and I am so proud that Tasmania has been chosen as the venue for those championships. It has been a long time coming. The last time the world championships were held in Tasmania was 1988. Thirty countries are coming to compete, bringing an estimated 800 anglers and support crews to Tassie. The Government has provided \$100 000 support for the event and there is support and sponsors galore. It is fantastic. We are really excited and looking forward to it.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of IFS with the carp management program as well. That good work is continuing. The carp management team at the IFS has had support especially from our Government but also the federal government and many thanks to the Morrison Coalition Government over the past years. They have worked hard to eradicate European carp from lakes Sorell and Crescent and we are nearly there. The work in Lake Crescent was completed in 2007 and the lake reopened to anglers and I am pleased by the latest results which indicate there is estimated to be less than 20 carp in Lake Sorell. The eradication effort is ongoing but there is definitely an end now in sight.

Ken Orr, a third-generation Tasmanian fly fisher, was the 2019 inductee to the Angling Hall of Fame at the Trout weekend at Liawenee. Membership of the Angling Hall of Fame is the pinnacle of achievement for an individual's contribution towards the betterment of freshwater angling in Tasmania and it represents the highest level of peer recognition for this achievement. I was on the board of the Angling Hall of Fame with Ken Orr for a number of years prior to my time in the Senate. It is just fantastic. The late Noel Jetson and Ken established the Tasmanian Professional Trout Fishing Guides Association in 1981. It is now called Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania, a wonderful organisation. His contribution over so many decades has been well recognised.

He was also successful and led the charge in banning unprocessed salmon imports into Australia and has represented Australia in many fly-fishing competitions. He runs a successful guiding business, is a member of Trout Guides and Lodges Tasmania and an active promoter of Tasmanian freshwater angling locally, interstate and overseas. I congratulate Ken on the record here in the Parliament, as I did at the weekend. It is a great achievement. Congratulations and well done. We have so much to be proud of with respect to Trout fishing and our Trout fishing world-class opportunities in Tasmania and I am very proud to be the minister to support and advocate for the trout fishery.

[The House adjourned at 6.34 p.m.]