



KYOGLE COUNCIL

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Date: Tuesday 16 May 2017

Member for Lismore Thomas George yesterday opened a new fishway at Kyogle which gives native fish unimpeded access to more than 300 km of the upper Richmond River catchment.

Built by Kyogle Council at a cost of \$1.37million, the fishway has reduced the 1.8 meter straight drop of the old Kyogle weir to 24 x 100mm lifts over 48 meters moving down stream.

As part of the fishway's innovative design, pre-fabricated v-shaped concrete baffles were installed into the bed of the river to create the graduated 48 metre climb to the weir.

It allows native fish, particularly the Australian bass and the Eastern freshwater cod, to cross the weir to spawn, feed and seek refuge in the upper reaches of the Richmond River.

Kyogle Council Mayor Danielle Mulholland said the fishway was another example of the great outcomes that could be achieved when Council worked in partnership with different spheres of government.

"Council, DPI Fisheries, NSW Public Works, Restart NSW, the NSW Environmental Trust and the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust have all played a role in the project," she said.

"DPI Fisheries raised the issue of the fishway with Council, NSW Public Works undertook the design of the fishway and Restart NSW, the NSW Environmental Trust and NSW Recreational Fishing Trust all chipped in funding towards its construction."

The innovative design allowed the fishway to be constructed in challenging conditions at half the cost of traditional technical fishways.

The concrete baffles for the fishway were pre-fabricated by Kyogle Council's bridge and concrete crew and installed by Woodenbong-based contractor MJ Smith Ground Preparation.

"This is a great result for Kyogle, and everyone involved should be congratulated," Cr Mulholland said.

The fishway was built as part of the broader \$8.2 million Kyogle Water Supply Augmentation Project, which received \$6.4 million in funding under the Water Security for Regions component of the Restart NSW Program.

END OF RELEASE

Captions:

Old Weir: The old Kyogle weir had a 1.8m straight drop which was a barrier to native fish.

Construction of the fishway: Contractors install the pre-fabricated concrete baffles into the river bed to create the new fishway.

Completed fishway: The completed fishway in the river at Kyogle.

Official opening: Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland, Kyogle Fish Acclimatisation Society President Barry Reeves and Member for Lismore Thomas George drop a line in the water after the official opening of the new Kyogle fishway. Watching on are Kyogle Council Deputy Mayor John Burley and long-time advocate of the fishway and member of the Kyogle Fish Acclimatisation Society President Kevin Clark. The new fishway gives native fish unimpeded access to more than 300 km of the upper Richmond River catchment.

Authorised by:	Graham Kennett General Manager	For an interview & further information contact:	Kyogle Council Mayor Danielle Mulholland Ph: 0438 931 425 Kyogle Council General Manager Graham Kennett Ph: 6632 0214
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