



MEDIA STATEMENT

27 May 2022

The Salmon Industry – Well Advanced on Freshwater Operations

- The Tasmanian salmon industry refutes Ms Christine Coughanowr claims that the future health of Tasmanian waterways is solely dependent on a cessation of flow-through hatcheries.
- This industry is not the only contributor to the health of Tasmanian waterways.
- We agree with Ms Coughanowr that the combination of naturally occurring low flows, nutrients and increased temperatures can lead to the increased growth of algae already present, including potential nuisance species.
- Rectifying these naturally occurring phenomenon requires a whole of catchment approach and integrated management addressing all nutrient sources, including sewage pump stations, agricultural runoff and other industry inflows.
- Contrary to the claims of Ms Coughanowr, the salmon industry clearly understands its general responsibility as custodians of the environments in which it operates including her call for a shift to recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS).
- Today, across the industry, 93% of fish are grown within these systems. The completion of Petuna's hatchery upgrade at Cressy in April next year will see 100% of their salmon smolt start life in a RAS, with Tassal and Huon already sitting at around 95%.
- Importantly, whether RAS or flow-through hatcheries are used, the industry focus is on looking after the adjacent environments. Environmental licences are in place which set limits that our industry complies.
- Flow-through hatcheries will continue to be an important component of the salmon industry's freshwater operations because there is no evidence of lasting environmental harm. These facilities are subject to constant monitoring, some of which is independently undertaken, with results provided to the environmental regulator.
- For example, most recent biomonitoring in the Florentine River showed good and equivalent conditions scores at both upstream and downstream sites when assessed under the Tasmanian River Condition Index (TRCI) model for macroinvertebrates and benthic algae. Autumn Biomonitoring and reporting is underway.

ENDS

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