



# Media Release

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## **A DECADE OF OPERATION = A CLEAN RUSSELL RIVER**

An independent biomonitoring report into Huon Aquaculture's Lonnvale freshwater hatchery has indicated the Russell River, downstream from the hatchery, remains in good condition with characteristics of a "clean-water environment".

The report, undertaken by Freshwater Biomonitoring, sampled 3 sites (1 upstream of the hatchery indicate and 2 downstream at 50m and 2km) to test for benthic algae, benthic macroinvertebrates and fish.

All three sites had a high proportion of taxa from the "clean-water" EPT families (ie Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera) while the algae sampling found generally low levels of algal cover and chlorophyll at all three sites.

The results also show the Russell River is well on the way to recovery following the extreme flood event in May 2018.

For Huon Aquaculture, these results are critically important because the Lonnvale hatchery is a vital component in maintaining good health and welfare for our fish, robust bio-security measures as well as minimising the impact on the local environment.

The independent report has been provided to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Huon Valley Council.

**ENDS**

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- This hatchery holds brood stock in seven ponds and four tanks in the flow-through facility, and incubates eggs and grows the stock through to smolt transfer in a self-contained recirculation unit.
- To ensure there is no irrigation run off during the wetter cooler months, the water is stored in dams. In the drier summer months, this water is used to drip-irrigate plantation forest on the surrounding property, Maiden Meadows. Irrigation is controlled by soil moisture sensors and irrigation is conducted according to the EPA approved Wastewater Reuse Environmental Management Plan.
- The flow-through tanks are fitted with drum screens to remove any waste and the water then flows through two settlement ponds and an extended riffle section (shallow gravelly streambed) before it enters the river. The hatchery operates under a strict Environmental Protection Notice with very low emission limits that are monitored by regular sampling.