

PRESS RELEASE: GOULBURN RIVER TROUT IS RECOGNISED AS A SUSTAINABLE SOURCE OF SEAFOOD BY THE AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (SYDNEY)

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Goulburn River Trout (www.grtrout.com.au) is very pleased to announce that it has been assessed by the **Australian Conservation Foundation** and **The University of Technology (Sydney)** under their Sustainable Australian Seafood Program and has been recognised as a “sustainable source of seafood”.

Goulburn River Trout is a family operated trout farming and processing business based near Alexandra on the Goulburn River. The business has been in operation for 35 years, the last 20 under the ownership of the Meggitt family. The business employs about 25 people, produces about 800 tonnes of trout per annum or 30 000 fish per week. Approximately 40% of the fish are smoked.

Although the processing plant is regulated by AQIS, allowing export of Goulburn River Trout products, virtually all are consumed in domestic markets. “Our main markets follow the demographics of Australia. We supply most the major wholesalers in the large cities.” said Mr Ed Meggitt.

“Global aquaculture is now supplying about 68 million tonnes of fin fish annually, compared to about 90 million tonnes from the wild fishery. Every year the role aquaculture plays in supplying fish becomes more significant.” said Mr Meggitt.

“However, as well as meeting the demand for more fish, we have to grow our trout in a sustainable fashion. For Goulburn River Trout this means looking after the water we grow our fish in, and then return to the river, as well as developing and using sustainable fish feed supplies.” Mr Meggitt said.

“Over the last 15 years we have seen vast improvements in all aspects of trout husbandry. We have worked with The Victorian EPA and Fisheries Victoria as well as our feed supplier Skretting Australia to improve all key performance measures. We are really pleased that our hard work has been identified by the **Australian Conservation Foundation** and **The University of Technology (Sydney)** and hope that their Sustainable Australian Seafood Program goes from strength to strength”

Ed Meggitt
Goulburn River Trout Pty Ltd
PO Box 69 Alexandra 3714

Ph: 03 57 732 483 Mob: 0408 173456
email: grtem@virtual.net.au
Web: www.grtrout.com.au