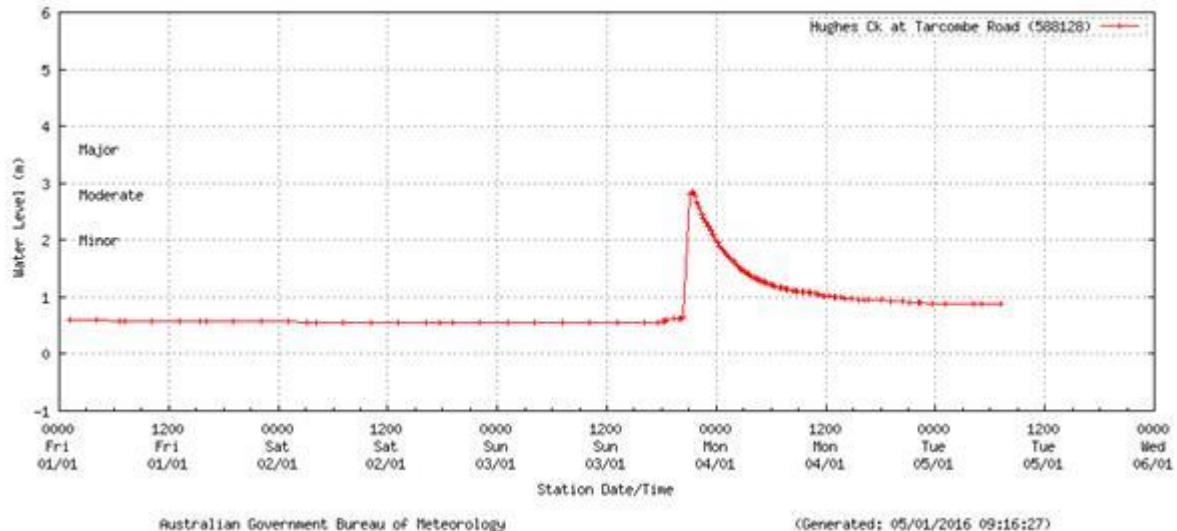


Hi All,

Hope you enjoyed the Xmas break.

I returned to work this week to learn that there was a minor, to almost moderate, flood event on the Hughes Creek.



This event will enable us to better evaluate the effectiveness of the habitat trial works when the post work monitoring is undertaken in autumn. This is particularly relevant to the question of how effectively can depth be maintained around the habitat structures in/after a flood event, when large volumes of sand are transported. I will review these works tomorrow, though will be awaiting the autumn physical surveys to substantiate the results and consider whether further stream surveys are warranted to capture potential changes following a major flood event.

Unfortunately the localised high intensity rainfall has caused quite a lot of damage to fencing on several properties in the lower reaches. See Janet Hagan's blog and pictures for more details at [Strathbogie Ranges Nature View](#). Without further rain it is expected the flows will quickly diminish once again to minimal or no flows, which can be a concern for Macquarie perch isolated in the remaining pools. The recent flood on the Hughes Creek will have recharged these pools, which will hopefully help sustain the population through the summer.

With assistance from Waterwatch and ARI (Arthur Rhyllah Institute), the CMA will be keeping close tabs on the condition of known refuge pools, in order that contingency plans may be enacted should the water quality decline to a point where the Macquarie perch become highly stressed. You could assist us with identifying known Macquarie perch refuges by logging the location of any seen or caught and returned fish, using the iSpy Fish app. The app can be downloaded for free at [GBCMA iSpy Fish](#). Recording catch on your phone this way is easy, just select Macquarie perch from the native fish species list and then 'Record catch' to log your location and record details. The iSpy Fish map of sightings can then be used as a central database to assist us build current knowledge on the distribution of Macquarie perch, for possible drought management and/or other habitat enhancement activities. If possible, I would still appreciate being notified of perch finds or stressed fish of any species, with a call or email too. Many thanks to those that have been sending me this advice.

Thank you all for your continued support and interest in this project.

Kind regards,

Christine Glassford River Health Officer