



Den Dam

Anglers Access

REGION: SOUTH



Rainbow trout

Getting There

Den Dam is approximately 6km west of Melton Mowbray. To access turn onto Den Road from the A5 Highland Lakes Road, approximately 2.5km west of Melton Mowbray.

Site Entry Requirement

It is a requirement of access onto this private property to provide your name and phone number.

Please scan the following QR code:

If you can't access the QR code you must text your name and phone number to 0427 988 728 prior to entering the property.



Background

Den Dam is a small (3.7Ha) water located on private property on the upper reaches of Donnybrook Rivulet. Previously unstocked, small numbers of wild adult rainbow trout were introduced in Spring 2025.

Recreational Fishery Management

Den Dam has been established with the aim of creating a trophy rainbow trout catch and release fishery.

New fishery regulations have been implemented at this water to support a fisheries management trial looking into catch and release related fish mortality. Only artificial lures and flies are permitted to be used in conjunction with single barbless hooks.

Through this fishery management trial, we aim to assess the survivability of released fish alongside aspects such as water temperature, fish size, time of year and angler visitation.

Catch and release

- Avoid prolonged fights, bring the fish in as quickly as possible.
- Keep the fish fully submerged when removing hooks.
- Remove hooks using forceps or long nosed pliers.
- Wet your hands before handling and use rubberised knotless nets.
- If it is necessary to take the fish out of the water minimise the time, ideally less than 10 seconds.
- Keep the fish horizontal and close to the water surface.
- Never touch the eyes or gills or hold the fish vertically.
- Do not place fish onto grass, rocks or dirt.
- When releasing, hold the fish upright in the water and let its energy recover to swim away naturally from your grip.

Remember – Higher water temperatures increase fish stress and oxygen demand, reducing their ability to recover after release. Please keep fish handling to a minimum during the warmer months.

Den Dam Angling Regulations

To fish in any open public inland water in Tasmania you must hold a current Inland Angling Licence unless you are under 14 years of age. A summary of the regulations is contained within the *Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code*.

Species	Minimum size	Bag limit
Rainbow trout	-	0

Zero bag limit – catch and release only.

Method	Season
Fly fishing	From the first Saturday in October to the Sunday nearest the 31st May; from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.
Artificial lures Single barbless hooks only	

Protect Our Waters

Recreational anglers have a responsibility to look after fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations.

- Do not bring live or dead fish, fish products, animals or aquatic plants into Tasmania.
- Do not bring any used fishing gear or any other freshwater recreational equipment that may be damp, wet or contain water into Tasmania. **Check, clean and dry** your fishing equipment before entering Tasmania.
- Do not transfer any freshwater fish, frogs, tadpoles, invertebrates or plants between inland waters.
- Check your boat, trailer, waders and fishing gear for weed and other pests that should not be transferred before moving between waters.
- Do not use willow (which is a plant pest) as a rod support as it has the ability to propagate from a strike.

Code of Conduct

- Be aware of and comply with fishing regulations.
- Respect the rights of other anglers and users.
- Protect the environment.
- Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water.
- Fish species and other organisms must not be relocated or transferred into other water bodies.

Pest Fish Management

Anglers can help reduce the spread of pests in Tasmanian waterways. It is an offence to use fish or fish products for bait or to transfer fish between waters. Significant penalties apply.

Fishery Participation Survey

To assist with this trial, we request that anglers provide information by filling in a survey upon leaving the fishery.

The survey can be accessed by scanning the QR code.



Angling Notes

Den Dam features prolific weed beds that are highly productive, supporting vast insect life. Rising fish are common during warmer, light wind conditions. Deeper shores along the northern part of the dam provide great scope for lure casting.

Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings immediately to the Inland Fisheries Service

Report illegal activities to
Bushwatch 1800 333 000

Please Observe

- Do not stray into paddocks
- Avoid disturbing stock
- Do not climb on fences
- Leave gates as you find them
- Do not cut down or deface trees
- **Respect the directions of the landowner at all times. Access to this site is conditional on anglers observing these rules.**



STRICTLY
NO FIRES



NO
UNAUTHORISED
SHOOTING



NO LITTERING



NO CAMPING



NO DOGS



NO BOATS
OR KAYAKS

Warning



ANGLING
REGULATIONS
APPLY



DEEP
WATER



CATTLE



SNAKES



FALLING
TREES AND
LIMBS

