

Anglers Access

We invite you to inspect completed projects and to discuss the merits of Anglers Access with the Manager - Anglers Access and participating landowners.

To date Anglers Access has been implemented on over 300 km of rivers across Tasmania with over 150 property owners participating.

The experience of landowners and anglers has been overwhelmingly positive.



CONTACT DETAILS

17 Back River Road,
New Norfolk, 7140
Ph: 6165 3808
www.ifs.tas.gov.au

Anglers Access Information for Landowners



For further information contact the
Manager – Anglers Access:

Paul Middleton

Phone 0490 796 276

Email paul.middleton@ifs.tas.gov.au

BL12381

Inland Fisheries Service



Why develop Anglers Access?

Tasmania's trout fishery has long been recognised as a natural asset of significance to the Tasmanian community and economy. The value of the fishery is estimated at \$110m per annum. By providing better access and information to anglers, we can enhance the value of the fishery for all Tasmanians, increase local participation and attract additional angling tourists.

What is Anglers Access?

Anglers Access is essentially a system of information for anglers enabling them to easily identify accessible places on angling waters and locate public facilities such as boat ramps. Based on the successful New Zealand model IFS has worked closely with private landowners, Crown Land, State Growth, Hydro, PWS and Sustainable Timbers Tasmania to identify publicly accessible fishing locations. This has resulted in improved road signage, interpretation and information at popular lakes and rivers and a range of brochures and maps detailing where anglers may fish.

Anglers Access projects on rivers are for foot access only – no vehicle access is proposed.

Tasmania's trout fishery is essentially a 'public' fishery. Our rivers, however, generally traverse a number of different land tenures along their length, which may be a combination of reserves and private land. Land title generally extends to the edge of the river; occasionally title extends to the middle of the river. Where river reserves exist, anglers are permitted to access these areas provided they do not have to cross private property to reach them.

In respect of private land, it is up to the individual landowner to control access at their discretion. Anglers must ensure that they are on public land or that they have sought the permission of the

landowner to access the river or lake they wish to fish. Many landowners welcome anglers onto their property and anglers generally enjoy good relationships with landowners through a common respect for the land and environment.

The most important principle is 'Access is a privilege not a right - when in doubt ask permission'.

Whilst this is fine in principle, it is not always practical, particularly for visiting anglers who may find it difficult to contact landowners.

How does Anglers Access work?

Anglers Access has been designed to provide clarity for landowners and anglers about where access is available on recognised angling rivers. This has been achieved by identifying public reserves and through agreements for access with private landowners. Anglers Access projects have been completed on the Mersey, Leven, Meander, Tyenna, Macquarie, Huon, Derwent, South Esk and Lake rivers and Brumbys Creek. Anglers Access establishes agreed responsibilities for the IFS, anglers and landowners.

Anglers Access will clearly indicate where angling access does and does not exist through interpretative signs and brochures with detailed maps and instructions for anglers.

Access Projects are designed to provide security and benefits for landowners. This includes underwriting the risk associated with allowing anglers foot access to rivers and lakes across their private property. Whilst risk associated with allowing foot access for anglers is extremely low the transfer and active management of risk is a significant benefit for landowners.

Individual agreements are negotiated between the IFS and landowners. Projects may contain all or some of the following elements:

- Licence agreements that transfer risk to the IFS (IFS will indemnify the landowner for loss or damage caused by an angler or any injury or loss caused to the angler)
- Risk management
- Regulatory signage
- Interpretative signage
- Code of conduct awareness and education
- Biosecurity
- Increased surveillance by Fisheries Officers
- Installation of infrastructure including fence stiles and footbridges
- Access to funding for environmental works
- Fencing of sensitive or secure areas
- Weed removal

Whilst Licence agreements are for a nominal period of 10 years, the landowner is able to cancel the agreement at any time with reasonable notice. Reasons for cancelling an agreement may include inappropriate behaviour or change of land use or ownership.

Should I participate in Anglers Access?

Participation in Anglers Access is entirely at the discretion of the individual landowner. If a landowner is happy with their current arrangements, there is no requirement to do anything different to what they are doing.