

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 cutting.

Warning



ANGLING REGULATIONS APPLY



DEEP WATER



SLIPPERY SURFACES



STRONG CURRENTS



ELECTRIC FENCE



FALLING TREES AND LIMBS



STEEP BANKS



CATTLE

**Caution:** Environmental water releases from Lake Parangana may cause the river to rise suddenly.

Getting There

The Mersey River rises on the Central Plateau south of Lake Rowallan and enters Bass Strait at Devonport. This brochure refers to a 55 km stretch of the river from Lake Parangana to Latrobe. Anglers may access the river at various locations, including Mersey Forest Road, Olivers Road, Liena, Union Bridge, Dynans Bridge, Kimberley, Merseylea, Warrawee Conservation Area and Latrobe.

Background

The Mersey River is one of the best river fisheries in Tasmania. Anglers will particularly enjoy fishing the fastwater sections downstream from Lake Parangana to Dynans Bridge, the rural flats at Kimberley and Merseylea and the estuary at Latrobe.

While brown trout are dominant, rainbow trout are common in the middle reaches, and sea run trout are a feature at Latrobe and the estuary. At Croesus Cave (Olivers Road), the river flows through the pristine Mole Creek Karst National Park for a distance of around 2 km. Bait fishing is not permitted within National Parks. A valid pass is required for entry to Tasmania's National Parks and must be displayed on vehicles and boats. Park Passes are available for purchase from the Mole Creek Visitors Centre.

Recreational Fishery Management

The Mersey River is managed as a wild trout fishery. The Mersey River is also managed as a recreational whitebait fishery. Separate rules and regulations apply to whitebait- check the IFS website for details.

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.

Angling Notes

Like many Tasmanian rivers, the Mersey boasts deep, slow-flowing pools and shallow fast sections of water that produce good quality trout. Locals prefer to fish the more challenging fast water sections which are reliably productive areas for brown and rainbow trout.

Favoured methods include bait fishing (where permitted); lure casting with blade spinners, hard bodied lures and soft plastics; and fly fishing the prolific hatches of duns, caenids and caddis during spring and summer. Sea run trout are a feature in spring, particularly around Latrobe and the estuary.

The Mersey River offers easy access combined with the convenience of ample parking. Sit back, relax, and drift a lightly-weighted worm or grasshopper down the river's deep pools. Actively fish the long stretches of river that are wadeable with fly or lure. Here the trout average around 400 g, with some specimens over 1 kg, providing excellent sport on light tackle, especially in fast water.

Care should be taken when wading in most sections of the river due to slippery, round rocks covering the river bed.

Access Rules

Foot Access for anglers has been provided by the goodwill of landowners and is a privilege not a right. If access is not specifically identified then you must ask for permission or you may be trespassing which is a criminal offence. Please respect private property and abide by the access rules and code of conduct to ensure the continued use of these areas.

- Do not stray into paddocks or trample crops
- Avoid disturbing stock
- Do not climb on fences
- Leave gates as you find them
- Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings to the Inland Fisheries Service
- Report illegal activities to Bushwatch 1800 333 000



**CONTACT DETAILS**  
17 Back River Road,  
New Norfolk, 7140  
Ph: 1300 INFISH  
[www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au)

EDITION 4

Mersey River  
Anglers  
Access

REGION: NORTH WEST



Damien Hickey

Inland Fisheries Service



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 are contained within the Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code.

Method	Season
 Fly fishing	<b>Downstream of Lake Rowallan to the Seaward Limit:</b> From the first Saturday in August to the Sunday nearest the 30th April. <b>Upstream of Lake Rowallan:</b> From the Saturday nearest to the 1st October to the Sunday nearest the 31st May.
 Artificial lures	
 Bait fishing *	

\*Bait fishing is not permitted within National Parks.  
**Note:** The use of fish and fish products as bait is prohibited in all inland waters other than sections of rivers subject to tidal movement.

Bag and Size Limits:

Species	Minimum size	Bag limit
Brown trout, Rainbow trout	220 mm	5*
River blackfish	220 mm	12

\*Total daily bag limit of 5 fish is for both species combined.

Seaward Limit

Inland angling regulations and licensing requirements apply upstream from the Seaward Limit on the Mersey River (A straight line running from the junction of the B19 Road and C146 Tarleton Road on the Western shore to the boat ramp on the Eastern shore of the river).

Native Fish Management

Australian grayling and giant freshwater lobster are present in the Mersey River and are wholly protected species. River blackfish are also present.





Please Observe



NO FIRES



NO SHOOTING



NO DOGS



NO LITTERING



NO CAMPING

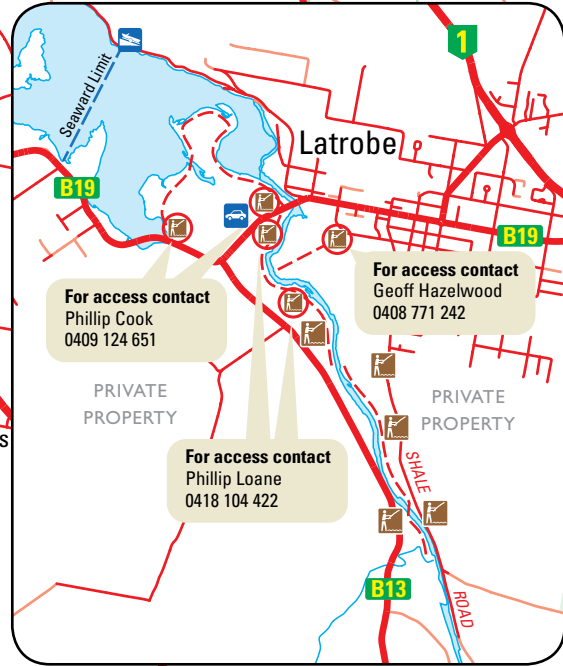
- Report any unusual fish captures or algal sightings immediately to the Inland Fisheries Service
- Report illegal activities to; Bushwatch 1800 333 000

LEGEND

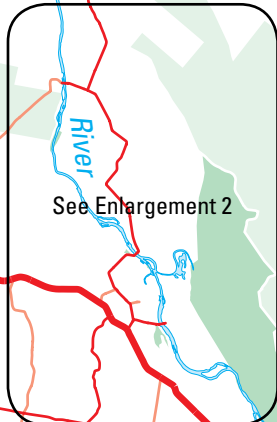
- Anglers Access
- Access only with prior permission
- No access beyond this point
- Boat ramp
- Toilets
- Parking
- Foot access only
- 4WD track
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road



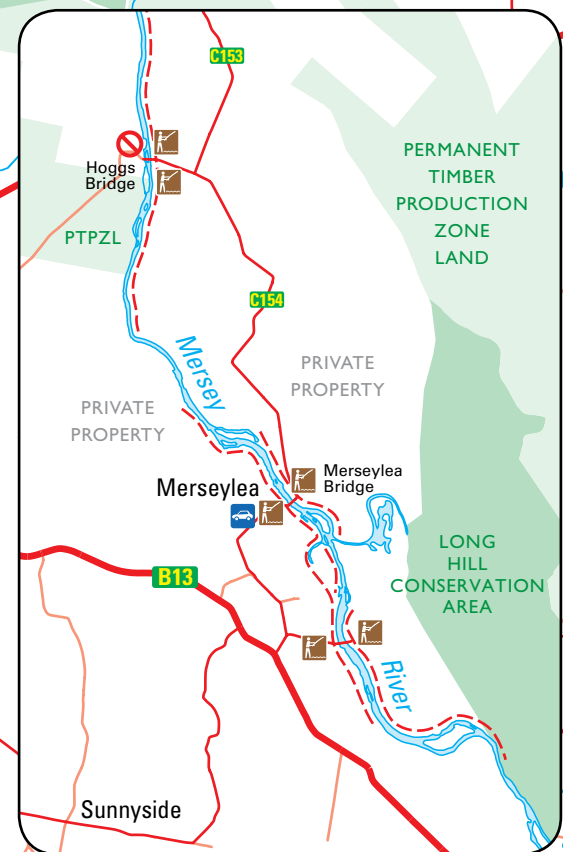
See Enlargement 1



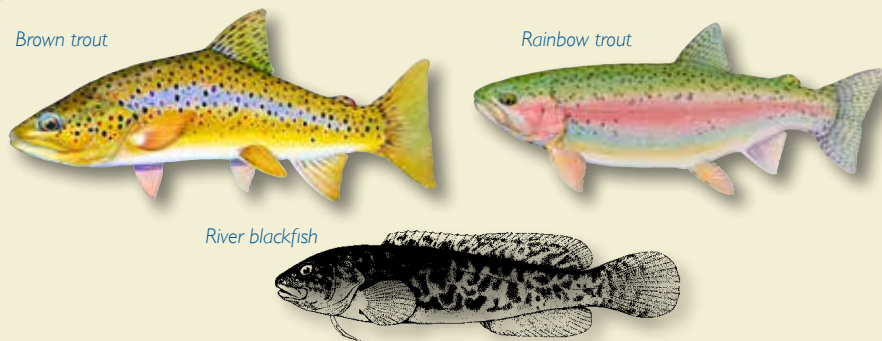
Enlargement 1



See Enlargement 2



Enlargement 2



forico  
future fibre

TASMANIAN  
COMMUNITY FUND  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Anglers Alliance  
Tasmania

Sustainable  
Timber  
Tasmania

Brown and Rainbow trout illustrations Kristii Melaine. Blackfish illustration by W.Fulton.

Design and layout by Land Tasmania Design Unit, DPI/PWE.