

## What is MAFSA?

MAFSA is an association of recreational fishermen and other persons who are worried about the depletion of fish stocks in the Mackay region, especially freshwater. MAFSA is not a fishing club but an association committed to the betterment of recreational fishing & operates in conjunction with similar stocking groups throughout Queensland.

## Aims of MAFSA

- Replenish fish stocks in depleted freshwater streams and rivers in the Mackay region so the average angler can catch a minimum of 1 suitable angling species of fish per hour in the dams & streams.
- Stock artificial lakes created by dam construction and turn them into viable recreational fisheries in the Mackay region.
- Ensure recreational anglers have access to waters stocked with angling species in the Mackay region.
- To protect, preserve & enhance freshwater fisheries habitat in the Mackay region.
- To promote responsible recreational fishing & the wise use of the resources & to educate others to adopt the same attitude
- Consult & liaise with all levels of governments & their departments on matters relating to fish stocks in the Mackay region.

## Present Achievements

MAFSA has constructed a freshwater hatchery located on Rob Symons' property at Ruralview to breed freshwater species such as "sooty grunter" and to grow out barramundi and other species as the expertise becomes available.

This approach means that fingerlings can be produced at a minimal cost compared to the purchase from commercial hatcheries. Species such as barramundi will be purchased from commercial hatcheries, to top up our requirements that cannot be bred in our hatchery.

Species currently being stocked include barramundi, sooty grunter & sleepy cod. Other species that may be stocked are mangrove jack, jungle perch & archerfish.

MAFSA is presently stocking Eungella Dam, Kinchant Dam, Teemburra Dam, Plane Creek and we have permits for Middle Creek Dam and the Pioneer River.

MAFSA has been active in the environment and has constructed fishways on Middle Creek at Teemburra Dam, under the bridge on Lagoon Street leading to the Lagoons and on Reliance Creek under the bridge at Habana. We have also constructed a lagoon and fishway on the CSR land at Oonie.

### Funding

MAFSA's funding comes from membership fees, corporate sponsors, donations from various businesses, Mackay City Council, Mirani Shire Council, DPI's "recreational fishing enhancement program", the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme, BIAQ, Tackle shops, sale of promotional material eg stickers, coolers, fishing expo & fun day, trade displays.

### Benefits

By providing a viable freshwater fishery, there will be a reduction in the impact on the saltwater fishery allowing this resource to return to a sustainable level. Businesses, such as tourism & hospitality will benefit from the creation of the freshwater fishery as will the general population. People will visit the area for a better fishing experience. By improving habitat and fish access to freshwater access we will improve our fisheries naturally which will improve the whole ecosystem.