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## **\$1.7 million deal locked in for Gaden Hatchery**

A four year deal has been negotiated with the NSW Freshwater Recreational Fishing Trust to keep Gaden Trout Hatchery at Jindabyne in public hands, with more than \$1.74 million invested in the facility over the coming years, NSW Primary Industries Minister, Ian Macdonald, said today.

“This new funding arrangement will ensure the hatchery remains in public hands well into the next decade, and continues as a leading trout production facility in NSW,” Mr Macdonald said.

“The Gaden Trout Hatchery is one of Australia’s main centres for breeding and rearing of cold water sport fish,” Mr Macdonald said.

Mr Macdonald said that the hatchery is an important attraction to the Snowy Mountains region and plays an important part in maintaining the regional economy.

“This funding, from the NSW Freshwater Recreational Fishing Trust will go towards the ongoing operation of the hatchery, including staff salaries and operating costs, enabling a continuation in the production of trout for recreational fishing programs at the hatchery,” Mr Macdonald said.

“Gaden Hatchery, situated on over one hectare of parklands on the banks of the Thredbo River, has been part of the community of Jindabyne for more than 50 years, and is now considered a multi-function complex, catering for fish stocking, compliance and research needs, and visitor services.”

Minister Macdonald noted that a number of new initiatives planned for the centre are progressing well.

“The Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee has been formed and a business plan is underway to steer the future direction for the facility,” Mr Macdonald said

“The committee is also working with Tourism NSW to fund a dedicated tour guide for the centre.

“Four species of fish are produced at Gaden; Atlantic salmon, brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout.

“Visitors are able to view feeding of the big fish which come to the surface in the crystal clear display pond, while guided tours of the hatchery are conducted daily.

“During the last five seasons more than seven million salmonids have been produced at Gaden for NSW public waters,” Mr Macdonald said.

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