

## Modifying a barrier to fish passage

### Showing fish the way

#### The site

Locketts Crossing is located on the Upper Coolongolook River, a major tributary of Wallis Lake, a coastal lake in the Hunter region. The 40 metre wide causeway was acting as a tidal barrage and defined the tidal limit in the river.

**Proponent: Great Lakes Council**

**Land use: road crossing**

**Habitat grant: \$40,000**

**In-kind support: \$92,402**

#### The project

Locketts Crossing restricted migrating fish such as Australian Bass and freshwater mullet access to over 63 kilometres of the upper Coolongolook River. The crossing was ranked by I&I NSW (Fisheries) as the highest priority to fish passage in the region. After 20 years of dialogue between I&I NSW and Great Lakes Council the structure was modified in 2009 and a partial-width rock-ramp fishway and a single box culvert constructed at the causeway.

Many partners were involved in this successful project including Great Lakes Council, the Australian Government through the Caring for our Country program, NSW Recreational Fishing Trust, Council of Freshwater Anglers, Streamline River Restoration, and I&I NSW and coastal Catchment Management Authorities through the Bringing Back the Fish project.



Prior to works - the highest priority barrier in region. Photo: I&I NSW



Post works – reinstated fish passage. Photo I&I NSW

#### The outcomes

The modification of the structure has

- provided migrating fish access to over 63 kilometres of upstream habitat



Over 40 people attended the fishway opening. Photo: I&I NSW