



Marlo Angling Club's David Ballinger (president), Paul Faulkner and Robert Caune joined Graeme Dear (second right) from the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to release 10,000 Australian bass fingerlings into the upper Brodribb River last week. (PS)

Brodribb turns up the bass

Last week saw the release of 10,000 bass fingerlings into the upper Brodribb River as part of a project undertaken by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA), the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, Marlo Angling Club and Victorian Fisheries Authority.

The release compliments the stocking of 454,000 bass across 19 rivers and Lakes throughout Victoria, including 95,000 into the Snowy River in recent weeks as part of the

Victorian Government Target One Million initiative.

The Brodribb River is a part of the Snowy catchment. Bass spawning relies on spring flows that trigger the fish to travel to the estuary for spawning.

With reduced flows from Jindabyne Dam, the natural spawning of bass has reduced. The recent efforts are simply topping the stocks back up to speed fish recovery while waiting for the benefits of a return of flows to the

Snowy catchment.

"Lots of stocked fish are well sized now and local anglers and visitors alike are enjoying the fishing," Marlo Angling Club president, David Ballinger, said.

"They're an iconic fish to this area and we want to keep them here. The club is happy to play our part in looking after our rivers."

Victorian Fisheries Authority chief executive officer, Travis Dowling, said angling clubs are passionate about fishing and the environment and are actively involved in looking after fish stocks.

"It's great that we can work with government partners and the angling club to look after our environment and our fishery as one."

CMA chief executive officer, Graeme Dear, said the Water Plan for Victoria recognises the value of rivers and waterways to the community's wellbeing.

"Partnering with our local angling clubs on this initiative benefits the health of our rivers and those fond of throwing in a line," he said.