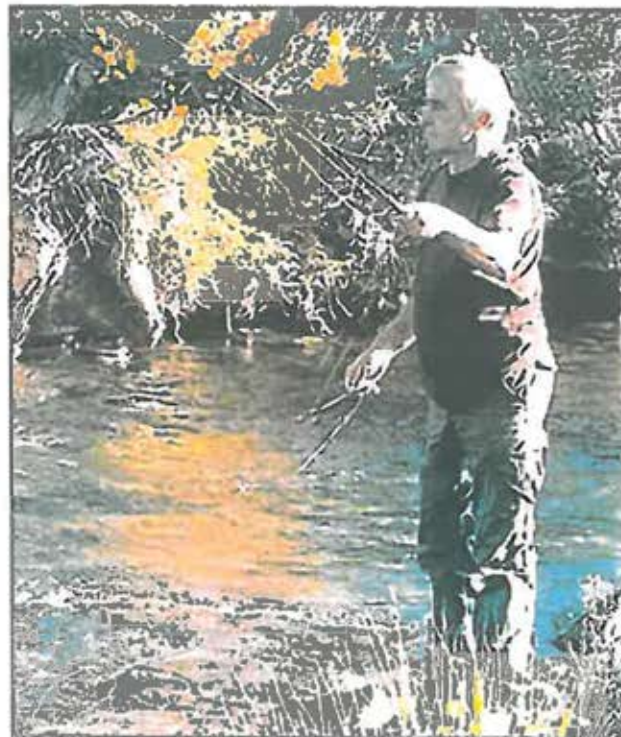


Trout are no worse than alien trees

DEAR SIR—I would relish the opportunity to deal fully with Jan Glazewski's avuncular assurances that the trout industry has nothing to worry about by trout being declared an invasive species (Claims on trout do not hold water, July 1).

But I doubt that I have that luxury, so let me briefly make three points and pose a question. Prof Glazewski is misinformed when he says that it is impossible to eradicate trout in SA. Trout can be eradicated in the majority of areas where they exist by preventing trout waters from being restocked with trout.

He correctly refers to the definition of control as it applies to invasive species as meaning to combat or eradicate trout or, where this is not possible, to prevent as may be practicable, the recurrence, re-establishment, regrowth, multi-



plication, propagation, regeneration or spreading of trout.

It is very easy to eradicate trout in a hatchery. You close the hatchery down. That is why the Department of

Environmental Affairs's biosecurity unit wants to make trout invasive in trout hatcheries. SA's largest trout hatcheries say that they will not be able to carry on business if trout are declared invasive in hatcheries. So Prof Glazewski is far from reassuring when he says there is no intention to eliminate existing trout activities.

Ask yourself: what would happen to our timber industry if wattle, gum and pine trees were declared invasive in timber plantations and timber research stations? That is why they are specifically listed as not being invasive in those areas.

So why is trout, whose effect on aquatic biodiversity is minimal when compared to the timber industry, treated differently if it isn't to eradicate trout as far as this is possible?

Ian Cox
Trout SA