

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee
Outcomes - Meeting 32, 5-6 May 2009

1. Apologies

None

2. Confirmation of outcomes from previous RFFTEC meeting

The draft outcomes of the 31st RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Richard Ping Kee. Carried.

3. Action Items from meeting 31

The progress of action items from the previous meeting was noted.

Action item: That DPI investigates a cost effective mechanism of distributing a certificate of appreciation for people that donate to the Recreational Fishing Trusts e.g. exempt fishers who choose to pay the fishing fee, donations etc.

4. Project updates – presentations

a) Habitat Action Program, 2008/09

Ms Sharon Molloy discussed the outcomes of expenditure of projects under the Habitat Action Program Investment Plan funded during 2008-09 within four key theme areas: Recreational Fishers Habitat Network, Demonstration Reaches, Coastal Fish Passage and Habitat Improvements. Trust members were invited to attend a Fish Habitat Forum in Ballina on 18-19 June. The Committee nominated 2 members from Regions 4 and 5 to attend the forum. Other members wishing to attend may have their travel costs reimbursed.

Action item: *That DPI arranges travel & accommodation for members from Regions 4 and 5 to the Fishers for Fish Habitat forum in Ballina on 18-19 June.*

b) Fishing infrastructure

Ms Mel Bradbury provided a summary of achievements in 2008/09 including promotion of infrastructure funding opportunities, identification of gaps in infrastructure, identification of potential infrastructure works and assistance provided to external applicants to develop infrastructure project applications. Twenty even angling facility applications were lodged in this round of funding, which is a 59% increase on the previous year. There appears to be a lack of infrastructure projects in much of inland NSW, the greater metropolitan areas and the far south coast of NSW. Strategies to promote quality infrastructure submissions from groups from within these areas will be implemented over the coming months. Work has also commenced on the development of best practice design guidelines for angling infrastructure projects.

b) Community education programs

In 2008/2009, 330 active volunteers were involved in the NSW Fishcare program, spanning across 12 coastal and 6 inland locations. Freshwater volunteers attended 98 organised events, contacting approx 20,000 people. A total of 247 children have attended fishing workshops at NSW DPI's 3 hatcheries this year. 12 new volunteers were trained in March 09 with an additional training weekend to take place at Bathurst in August. DPI will concentrate on evaluating volunteer training processes & enhancing the content/delivery methods, with online training to be rolled out in 09/10. To date 52 schools (11 in the Central West region) have registered for the 'Get Hooked...it's Fun to Fish' program with a total of 3,100 students to take part in the program later this year. Get Hooked workshop weeks will be held in the Central West from the 26-30th of October.

d) Tournament Event Management Program

Mr Eddie Douglas gave a brief synopsis of the fishing event management program, outlining the purpose, objectives, challenges and most recent achievements. It was noted that the voluntary Code of Practice has been developed to help fishing competitions operate in a safe, environmentally and socially responsible manner. To help event organisers abide by the Code of Practice a range of guidelines were also developed. These guidelines are applicable to a wide range of events including both catch and keep and catch and release. Tournament packs have been developed to further promote the program and support organisers moving to improved format events. Since November, DPI has provided guidance and advice to over 65 fishing events. This has included reviewing individual competition rules and providing feedback on potential improvements and supply of promotional and advisory material to further encourage the introduction of improved practices. The committee was advised that the fishing event database currently contains the details of over 250 fresh and salt water fishing events throughout NSW and is the most comprehensive list available.

Mr Richard Ping Kee suggested that proceeds from tournaments could be directed back into restocking. It was noted that some tournaments use funds for this purpose whilst others raise funds for charities. Ms Debbie Lennon questioned whether fish could be re-released at the location where they were taken rather than at the marshalling area subsequent to measurement / weigh in. It was noted that this could occur however care would need to be taken to reduce the effects of catch and release stress on fish.

e) Scientific data collection from recreational fishing tournaments

Ms Danielle Ghosn provided an overview of bass catch results for each river sampled including catch rates, size statistics, fishing effort (days) and length compositions by event and a summary of differences in catch rates and size ranges between rivers. The data appeared to indicate that the Williams River maintains the highest average catch rates of bass and the Macleay River maintains the largest size ranges. Recruitment rates between rivers appear to vary significantly, most likely due to the effects of barriers within these systems. The program will aim to collect data on angler avidity, attitudinal data about fishing quality and fishing gears and methods in the future. An interim data summary report is being prepared for events in impoundments and rivers for distribution to the Committee in the future.

Action item: That DPI supplies summary information to Committee members on the status of monitored recreational fisheries for distribution. Summary information should include catch rates, size statistics and catch & length compositions by event, fishery trends and comparisons of fisheries between events.

f) Macquarie perch research

Wild Macquarie perch have been collected from the upper Lachlan River catchment and transferred to the Narrandera Fisheries Centre as insurance against the impacts of redfin perch. DPI is undertaking cooperative research with Macquarie University to assess the behavioural relationships of Macquarie perch with redfin perch and to monitor the spread of redfin perch in the upper Lachlan catchment and associated impacts on Macquarie perch and other native species. DPI is attempting to develop captive breeding techniques of the species whilst it is being held in captivity in order to facilitate a potential future re-stocking program. An artificial stream habitat has been constructed to assess breeding behaviour. If development and spawning is observed, a captive breeding program will be trialled in the future with a view to re-introducing the species into an area of the upper Lachlan catchment that is free of redfin.

5. NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Report / Gaden Trout Hatchery update

The Committee was advised that a comprehensive expression of interest process was carried out by DPI calling for community Trust applications earlier this year. The EOI was widely circulated through regional radio and newspapers, fishing magazines, mailouts to fishing clubs and organisations, universities, and local councils. New freshwater applications received by DPI were reviewed at the meeting.

Action item: That DPI updates the current recreational fishing fee poster regarding purchase of plastic licences for display at licence agents.

DPI provided an update on future management arrangements for the Gaden Trout Hatchery. The Committee was advised that the inaugural Interim Implementation Committee meeting was scheduled for the 15th May at the Gaden hatchery. The Committee will be comprised of the Director, Fisheries Operations, Cameron Westaway, Senior Manager Inland, John Humphries ACORF, Tom Williams RFFTEC, Peter Gibson MAS and Steve Samuels CFA.

The Committee ratified out of session support for funding of \$417,000 for the Gaden Trout Hatchery in 2009/10, to cover the cost of ongoing recurrent expenditure at the hatchery subject to the conditions of the funding application. **Moved:** Debbie Lennon. **Seconded:** Tom Williams. **Carried.**

Mr Kevin McKinnon discussed an apparent disparity between funding for dollar for dollar native fish stocking and trout stocking. DPI advised that the dollar for dollar program allows private hatchery production capacity to be utilised for streams and river stockings, however this situation does not apply to the Government trout hatcheries, as these facilities produce sufficient numbers of fish for stocking in both rivers and freshwater impoundments. DPI advised the Committee that Mr Leo Cameron has relocated to another position within DPI and that the effectiveness of stocking position is now filled by another person. The Committee asked if a letter of appreciation could be sent to Mr Cameron for his contribution to fish stocking research over the past 3 years.

Action item: That a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr Leo Cameron for his contribution to effectiveness of stocking research over the past 3 years.

The Committee expressed concerns regarding the decision by the Government to reduce the number of core funded conservation manager positions in NSW. The Chair noted that conservation manager positions have been funded by the Trusts to augment the existing contingent of DPI staff to improve the overall effectiveness of regional habitat protection / environmental law enforcement programs. The Chair advised that Mr Bill Talbot, Director, Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture will discuss the status of conservation manager positions in NSW at the next ACoRF meeting.

Action item: That the issue of reduction of DPI conservation manager positions be discussed at the next ACoRF meeting.

6. Appraisal of Investment Plan for 2009/10 for DPI and external programs

The Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan, previously approved for funding by the Expenditure Committees, ACoRF and the Minister, was appraised by RFFTEC taking into account project status and any variations to projects as outlined in the annual and meeting reports submitted by program managers. RFFTEC supported funding for the previously approved freshwater programs in the Investment Plan without amendment (refer to Table 1).

During a joint session with the saltwater committee, Ms Sharon Molloy discussed the proposed strategy for implementation of the Habitat Action Program in 2009/10 and beyond. The strategy proposed that a Technical Committee, made up of one representative from each of the expenditure committees, DPI staff and an independent person, be established to review habitat grants submitted and provide advice to the expenditure committees following a separate EOI process. The expenditure committees endorsed the strategy for the Habitat Action Program in 2009/10.

Motion: That all habitat grant programs be deferred to the Habitat Action Program for consideration in the 2009/10 funding round to promote further leveraging of funds from other sources and to provide improved value for money.. Moved Lionel Jones. Seconded: John Burgess. **Carried.**

Motion: The Committee also supported the implementation of a Habitat Technical Committee. **Moved:** John Burgess. Seconded: Lionel Jones. **Carried.**

7. Review of new 2009/10 applications

New Trust project applications (large and small grants) supported for funding are listed in Table 2.

New Trust project applications deferred by RFFTEC to the Habitat Action Program are listed in Table 3.

New Trust applications not supported are listed in Table 4.

8. 200910 Investment Plan Summary

The Investment Plan was updated with new projects supported by the expenditure committees. The Freshwater Trust financial table was updated throughout the meeting to ensure the level of funding available in 2009/10 was not exceeded.

9. General business

Mr Kevin McKinnon was nominated as the RFFTEC representative for the habitat action program technical committee.

A draft design of a new recreational freshwater fish species identification poster was circulated to members at the meeting. Funds have been set aside from the Freshwater Recreational Management program for design / production / distribution of the poster in 2009/10.

DPI has received over 350 entries to the recreational fishing calendar photo competition with more than 400 requests for the calendar made on line. Committee members will be invited to review a selection of photographs at the next meeting for inclusion in the 2010 calendar.

Next meeting

Tuesday 11 August 2009 at the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence.

Table 1: Recreational Fishing Trust programs previously supported by the expenditure committees & ACORF and approved by the Minister as part of the Investment Plan

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network (this platform represents fee attributable funding)

Program	Proponent	Budget			
		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recreational fishing fee administration – provides for the convenient payment of the fishing fee at most fishing tackle stores and via the web and phone. <i>Note: An application for top-up funding in 2009/10 to reach 10% of revenue allocation will be made pending total revenue received in 2008/09.</i>	DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Fee research database – this database collects information on the details of fee receipt holders and other demographic information for use in research surveys.	DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000
Licence fee renewal facility – facilitates the renewal of recreational fishing fee receipts by anglers.	DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Expenditure Committee meeting expenses – the saltwater and freshwater committees of expert anglers reviews Trust funding applications and ongoing progress of programs.	DPI/ RFSTEC/ RFFTEC	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$30,000	\$31,000	\$32,000	\$33,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$30,000	\$31,000	\$32,000	\$33,000
Freshwater Recreational Management – this position coordinates the following Trust programs: fishing fee expenditure committee coordination, freshwater recreational Trust grants + freshwater fishing stocking programs (Enhanced fish production, \$ for \$ stocking)	DPI	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$166,000	\$166,000	\$166,000	\$166,000

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Program	Proponent	Budget			
		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Habitat Action Program...Making more fish naturally –a series of on-grounds works programs to improve habitat rehabilitation and fish stocks.	DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation in the south west region – a conservation manager based in Albury will manage fish habitat protection and aquatic threatened species management issues in south west NSW amongst government and non-government organisations, landholders, catchment management authorities and recreational fishing groups.	DPI	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$158,646	\$162,623	\$162,623	\$162,623

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Program	Proponent	Budget			
		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Fish stocking: enhanced fish production - DPI operates four hatcheries that produce native fish and trout for stocking in freshwater impoundments throughout NSW. Trust funds boost production at the hatcheries, which has led to increased numbers of fish being stocked and better fishing.	DPI	\$346,458	\$359,053	\$359,053	\$359,053
Fish stocking: dollar for dollar program - funding provided for fishing clubs to buy native fingerlings for stocking in rivers and dams.	DPI	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Management of fish stocking to ensure responsible stocking practices – one position to undertake environmental assessments of fish stocking programs in NSW to ensure they are carried out in an ecologically sustainable way.	DPI	\$104,809	\$108,543	\$108,543	\$108,543
Gaden Trout Hatchery – this will provide funding for the ongoing operation of the hatchery, including staff salaries and operating costs commencing 2009/10. This does not include capital expenditure.	DPI	\$417,000			

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Program	Proponent	Budget			
		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Scientific data collection from recreational fishing tournaments in NSW – aims to sample the catch and effort from Basscatch and other freshwater native fish events and club-based gamefishing in NSW in support of the assessment of billfish, tuna and sharks and freshwater native fish.	DPI	SW \$86,422 FW \$37,038	SW \$151,426 FW \$37,857	SW \$161,074 FW \$40,268	SW \$175,852 FW \$43,963
Effectiveness of freshwater stockings & recreational freshwater fishing assessments in New South Wales – involves completion of scientific studies on western drainage freshwater fish stockings to develop cost-effective stocking procedures for large-scale releases of fish (Phase 1). Phase 2 involves determining areas to be stocked, optimal stocking sizes and methods, the impacts of stocked fish on resident species, the effectiveness of size limits on selected fisheries and to investigate the effectiveness of fishing closures.	DPI	\$190,978 Phase 2	\$204,923	\$218,245	\$228,999
Maximising the post release survival of angler caught native freshwater fish – research to develop fishing gears and practices that improve the survival of released fish in freshwater (Phase 2).	DPI	\$199,900	\$199,300	\$101,500	
Enhancing Australian bass populations in the Clarence River through increased knowledge of their biology – this program will investigate life history characteristics of a local bass population in the Clarence River which will provide specific information for management of the species in that catchment.	DPI	\$10,000			
Optimised stocking of Australian bass, by testing modelled estimates of predator impact – to develop a predatory impact model to optimise stocking rates of Australian bass in freshwater impoundments	UNSW	\$52,251			

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing (continued)

Program	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Rescue and protection of Macquarie perch from Upper Lachlan River system and investigations into captive breeding techniques - will ensure the preservation of Macquarie perch from the Lachlan river catchment by removing a representative portion of the population to secure refuge. Will investigate captive breeding techniques of Macquarie perch	DPI	\$26,190			

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Program	Proponent	Budget			
		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recreational Fishing Promotion and Event Management – involves working with fishing tournament organisers and the community to promote events that operate in a safe and environmentally and socially responsible way. This also includes implementing codes of practice for recreational fishing in NSW.	DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$109,780	\$109,780	\$109,780	\$115,760
Fishcare Volunteers – this is the flagship program of the Trusts. Over 300 trained volunteers are involved in face to face education with anglers to help them to be familiar with fishing rules and to promote responsible fishing practices.	DPI	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$27,440	\$27,440	\$27,440	\$28,940
Get hooked...Its fun to fish - this schools education program is designed to teach children at an early age about the importance of aquatic habitats and to introduce them to safe and responsible fishing practices.	DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$364,600	\$386,000	\$361,000	\$396,000
Recreational fishing awareness raising - provides information on fishing rules to anglers and encourages responsible and sustainable fishing practices through a range of media (newspaper, magazines, radio, billboards) at peak fishing periods.	DPI	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$40,000	\$38,000	\$40,000	\$39,000
Fishing workshops – a series of fishing workshops for children are held in Sydney, at Government hatcheries and across regional NSW, including workshops for special needs groups and NESB communities.	DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$36,250	\$36,310	\$36,310	\$36,310
Recreational Fishing Guides – 300,000 Freshwater and Saltwater fishing guides are produced each year to help recreational anglers identify their catch and summarise the fishing rules.	DPI	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$19,750	\$19,780	\$19,780	\$19,780
		SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Program	Proponent	Budget			
		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recreational fishing infrastructure grants manager – this position facilitates the development of quality recreational fishing infrastructure in key locations for use by recreational fishers, identifies key gaps in the availability of existing infrastructure and develops a list of potential works to guide the preparation of funding applications.	DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$113,348	\$121,559	\$124,645	\$128,645
		FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$13,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$14,000
Recreational fishing access – 2 fisheries managers work closely with government agencies and other landowners to maintain and improve current access to popular local fishing spots. A major focus is to identify and open new access points for fishing.	DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$125,400	\$133,700	\$138,145	\$138,145
		FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$149,059	\$158,623	\$159,123	\$160,623
Small grants program - provides seed funding for community groups for recreational fishing infrastructure programs such as fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms.	various	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Program	Proponent	Budget			
		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
6 Inland Fisheries Officers (enhancement activities) - six inland fisheries officers conduct a range of activities to enhance voluntary compliance with fishing rules by providing advisory and education services and creating effective deterrence to illegal activity by undertaking patrols and enforcement operations	DPI	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$727,717	\$755,685	\$784,773	\$815,026

Table 2: New Recreational Fishing Trust programs supported by the expenditure committees (large and small grants).

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Gogeldrie Weir Fish Cleaning Table & Solar Lighting – to install a fish cleaning table and solar lighting adjacent to the Gogeldrie Weir boat ramp.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding from the Small Grants Program</u> for the project as it provides a facility for enhanced recreational fishing opportunities. Funding is provided for the table component only as per the quote –no funding is allocated for the solar lighting. Moved: Brian Hale Seconded: Karl Schaerf Carried.</p>	'Bidgee Class.Fishing Comp. Comm.	\$6,400			
<p>Fish Cleaning Table for Copeton Dam Northern Foreshores – to construct a fish cleaning table at Copeton Waters northern foreshore adjacent to the main boat ramp</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding from the Small Grants Program</u> for the project as it provides a facility for enhanced recreational fishing opportunities. Funding is provided for construction of the table and towards the cost of the fish cleaning table shelter. The remaining cost of the shelter and other costs attributed to the program e.g. plumbing, electrical, water connection / waste disposal, should be funded from other sources. Moved: Tom Williams Seconded: Brian Hale Carried.</p>	Inverell Shire Council	\$8,000			

Platform: Recreational Fishing Education

Project Title	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Freshwater recreational fishing trust, promotional fishing calendar 2011 – to produce a recreational fishing calendar in 2011 that will display freshwater fishing rules and regulations with photographs for the calendar submitted by the recreational fishing community.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding</u> for the program as it provides an opportunity for increased knowledge of recreational fishing rules and engages the angling public to submit recreational fishing photographs. Moved: Tom Williams Seconded: Kevin McKinnon Carried</p>	DPI	\$10,000			

Platform: Recreational Fishing Enhancement Programs

Project Title	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Installation of secondary recirculation unit at Dutton Trout Hatchery – to install a second recirculation system in the main hatching shed room using existing 6 x 2,500 litre tanks (total 15,000L) to increase the amount of chilled / temperature controlled water in the hatchery used to house fish for stocking.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding</u> for the program as it provides for the stocking of fish in public waters to enhance recreational fishing outcomes. Moved: Ian Ward. Seconded: Karl Schaerf. Carried.</p>	DPI	\$38,250			
<p>Supporting Fish Hatchery Trainees – to cover accommodation expenses at Narrandera for work experience students at the Narrandera Fish Hatchery.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding from the Small Grants Program</u> for this project as it provides training opportunities for students in native fish production / stocking techniques. Moved: Karl Schaerf. Seconded: Ron Croker. Carried.</p>	DPI	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
<p>Gaden Trout Hatchery funding proposal - this will provide funding for the ongoing operation of the hatchery, including staff salaries and operating costs in 2010/11 and beyond. This amount does not include capital expenditure.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding</u> for the program as it provides for the stocking of fish in public waters to enhance recreational fishing outcomes. Moved: Karl Schaerf. Seconded: Ron Croker. Carried.</p> <p><i>Note: RFFTEC supported a 3% incremental increase in funding from 2010/11 to 2012/13 to account for CPI increases.</i></p>	DPI		\$429,510	\$442,395	\$455,667
<p>Manilla Native Fish Hatchery (Golden Perch) upgrade – improvements to hatchery plumbing / infrastructure to meet new DPI Hatchery Quality Assurance Requirements.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding from the Small Grants program</u> for this project as it provides for the production / stocking of native fish in public waters by a non-profit organisation, to enhance recreational fishing. Moved: Karl Schaerf. Seconded: Ron Croker. Carried.</p> <p><i>Note: Mr Ian Ward was absent from the meeting room during discussion / voting on this project.</i></p>	Manilla Fishing Club and Hatchery Inc	\$10,000			

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Spawning sites and reproductive behaviour of Murray cod in upland and lowland riverine habitats in the northern Murray-Darling River System.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding</u> to cover operational expenditure for year 1 of the program and to leverage funds from other sources such as FRDC (for the remaining costs). The Committee considered this research into the reproductive biology of Murray cod as a high recreational fisheries priority which addresses a scientific knowledge gap. Funding is provided on the basis that DPI will seek out additional funding for the program from other sources. Moved: Brian Hale. Seconded: Max Graham. Carried.</p>	DPI	\$50,000			
<p>A longitudinal study of nodavirus infection in Australian bass – to sample a batch of Nodavirus positive fish at regular intervals until they reach sexual maturity and to determine whether and how the virus is passed onto the progeny of that batch</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding</u> for the program as the study addresses a scientific knowledge gap and is a research priority for fish stocking at this time. Moved: Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: Karl Schaerf. Carried.</p>	DPI	\$19,200	\$20,450	\$22,500	
<p>Evaluation of the status of nodavirus-carrying Australian bass in NSW waterways – to determine the incidence of Nodavirus in wild juvenile Australian bass populations and to review the testing of Nodavirus in bass hatcheries based on these results.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>supports funding</u> for the program as the study addresses a scientific knowledge gap and is a research priority for fish stocking at this time. Moved: Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: Karl Schaerf. Carried.</p>	DPI	\$63,150			

Table 3: New Recreational Fishing Trust applications deferred by the expenditure committee for assessment under the Habitat Action Program funding round, 2009/10

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Nymboida River Project - Riparian Vegetation for Fish – to rehabilitate riparian vegetation along a 5km stretch of the Nymboida River in the upper Clarence catchment, to investigate indigenous fishing knowledge of the area, to develop advisory material and signage & hold a community information session about the program.	Clarence Landcare Inc	\$77,460			
Nundle Riverside Project – Stage 1: Peel River Riparian Rehabilitation – to rehabilitate riparian vegetation along a 400m stretch of the Peel River in the upper Namoi catchment	Nundle Community Development Committee	\$14,850			
Enhancement of recreational fishing community and habitat in Lake Canobolas – Habitat Action Program – to emplace large woody debris within the bed of Lake Canobolas to improve habitat for juvenile species and improve recreational fishing outcomes.	Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society Inc.	\$8,278			
Deua River Riparian Habitat Rehabilitation 2009 - to rehabilitate riparian vegetation along an 8km stretch of the Deua River catchment.	Deua Rivercare	\$9,700			

Table 4: Recreational Fishing Trust applications not supported by the expenditure committees (large and small grants).

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Annual Membership of Recfish Australia (Joint Saltwater/Freshwater project) – membership fees for the national recreational fishing organisation, Recfish Australia. Motion: The Committee does not support funding for the program. Moved: Lionel Jones. Seconded: Sanchia Glaskin. Carried. Note: The Committee expressed concern about future funding from other states and requested that Recfish Australia provide a business plan with a preferred model of future operation and management following the Annual General meeting.	Recfish Australia	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	
Centennial Square Education Centre, Centennial Parklands – to modify an existing fenceline around a fishing pontoon, install a workshop to house fishing gear, purchase a fishing advisory trailer, purchase of fishing gear /equipment, construct an outdoor fishing kitchen, design fishing training resources, purchase audio/visual equipment & dispose of carp at the Sydney Fish Markets Motion: The Committee <u>does not support funding</u> as the infrastructure and associated equipment was not considered beneficial to recreational anglers. Moved: Brian Hale Seconded: Karl Schaerf Carried.	Centennial Parklands Foundation	\$115,000			
Walka Water Works Shelter – to install a shade structure / shelter over an existing table & chair abutting the Walka Works water body to provide shade for users of the water body. Motion: The Committee <u>does not support funding</u> for the program as the infrastructure was not considered beneficial to recreational anglers. Moved: Karl Schaerf Seconded: Max Graham Carried.	Maitland City Council	\$10,000			
Site specific signage for Gwydir River, Bingara – to install 6 band and size limit signs in the public reserve area near the township of Bingara, along the Gwydir River downstream of Copeton Dam Motion: The Committee <u>does not support funding</u> for site specific recreational signage as it is inconsistent with current DPI bag and size limit signage. However, the Committee endorsed the installation of generic bag and size limit signage at this location through the freshwater recreational management program, as it provides an opportunity for increased knowledge of recreational fishing rules. Moved: Karl Schaerf Seconded: Max Graham Carried. <i># Action item: That DPI supply 6 generic bag and size limit signs to Bingara Anglers Club for erection at the Gwydir River foreshore reserve, Bingara. Funding for signage is to be provided from within the existing freshwater recreational management program.</i>	Bingara Anglers Club	\$4,976			
Fishing Platform: Glenreagh – to install a concrete platform and walkway on the bank of the Orara River near Glenreagh to replace a swimming / diving platform. Motion: The Committee <u>does not support funding</u> for this application as proposed usage is not recreational fisheries specific. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Karl Schaerf Carried.	Glenreagh Progress Association Inc	\$5,853			

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Fishers of Men: Caring for Community (pre-proposal) (Joint Saltwater/Freshwater project) – to provide “hook safe” devises to all licence holders. The Committee did not support the pre-proposal. Moved: Malcolm Poole. Seconded: Debbie Lennon. Carried. The Committee considered the program to be a commercial enterprise and therefore not eligible for funding from the Trust.</p>	Recfish Australia	SW / FW \$40,000	SW / FW \$40,000	SW / FW \$40,000	
<p>Electronic Newsletters for Recreational Fishers (Joint Saltwater/Freshwater project) – to produce and distribute three newsletters: Freshwater Fisher, Angler Action Newsletter and NSW Recfisher. The Committee does not support funding for the program. Moved: Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: Debbie Lennon. Carried. Note: The Committee noted that funding for the program would set a precedent for similar newsletter publications for other fishing organisations.</p>	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	SW \$12,250 FW \$12,250	SW \$12,250 FW \$12,250		
<p>Fish Safe and Sound Radio Program (Joint Saltwater/Freshwater project) – to establish a regular radio program to raise awareness of sustainable fishing practices in the Macedonian and Greek population of Sydney. The Committee did not support funding for the program. Moved: John Drew. Seconded: Debbie Lennon. Carried. The Committee considered the program to be a commercial enterprise and therefore not eligible for funding from the Trust.</p>	Planina – Macedonia - Aust. Fishing and Hunting Association	SW / FW \$6,460			
<p>Introduction to fly fishing – provision of fly fishing rods complete with reels and flyline to be used for fly fishing course Motion: The Committee <u>does not support funding</u> for this application as the purchase of gear for these events may set a precedent for funding. Moved: Ian Ward Seconded: Karl Schaefer Carried</p>	Greenwells Fly Fishing Club Inc	\$2,400 FW			
<p>Central Coast Kids Freshwater Fish In Central Coast Freshwater Precinct Development Motion: The Committee <u>does not support funding</u> for this application as the proposed itemised expenditure such as lighting, security, PA and site hire was considered inappropriate. Moved: Richard Ping Kee Seconded: Debbie Lennon Carried</p>	Fishing Fellers Radio Program CoastFM	\$10,000 FW			

Platform: Recreational Fishing Enhancement Programs

Project Title	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Manning River Basscatch – seeking funding to publicise the bi-annual Manning River bass catch event, to erect a stall in the Manning Valley Archery Club Hall to promote the achievements of the bass catch program, to provide awards for tournament participants and to cover catering costs for bass catch events.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>does not support funding</u> for this application. However, DPI noted that it will work with tournament organisers to assist with advertising / promotion and management of the Manning River Bass Catch event in the future, through the existing tournament management and scientific data collection programs. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Max Graham Carried.</p> <p><i># Action item: That DPI contact organisers of the Manning River Bass Catch event to provide assistance with promotion / management of this event as appropriate.</i></p>	Wingham Anglers Club	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Proponent	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Life-skills training for hatchery-reared fish – to establish methods of boosting post release survival of hatchery reared fish by exposing fingerlings to predators prior to stocking to initiate an avoidance response.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee <u>does not support funding</u> for the program as the study was not considered a recreational fisheries research priority at this time. Moved: Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: Richard Ping Kee. Carried.</p>	Macquarie University	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,250	\$0