

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) meeting OUTCOMES

Meeting Number: 70 **Date:** 28 November 2023 **Time:** 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Location: Videoconference
Invitees: Bruce Schumacher AM (Chair), Max Graham (Region 1), Ron Butler (Region 2), Ron Croker (Region 3), Michael Davey (Region 4), Paul Mullen (Region 5), Debbie Lennon (Region 6), Jasen Ramien (Region 7), Troy Bright (Region 8), Brett Richards (Professional Fishing Instructors & Guides Association), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI)

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Jasen Ramien, Peter Turnell

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 69th RFFTEC meeting held on 3 May 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Debbie Lennon, Carried.**

4. Recreational Fishing Trust items

a. Trust funding round

The Minister announced the opening of the next Recreational Fishing Trust Funding round on 2 November 2023 with a closing date of 18 December 2023. The invitation to apply for funding has been widely circulated to stakeholders and advertised via Newscast (580,000 subscribers) and the NSW Government grants finder webpage. During this funding round there is an additional focus for projects which provide fishing opportunities for people with disabilities.

b. NSW Grants Administration Guide

The NSW Government Grants Administration Guide outlines requirements for agencies to follow when administering grant programs, including taking account of the seven key principles of grants administration. These principles are robust planning and design; collaboration and partnership; proportionality; outcomes orientation; achieving value for money; governance and accountability; and probity and transparency. Applications must meet eligibility criteria before being provided to

the expenditure committees for review and the committees will consider each application against defined assessment criteria.

c. Status of the Freshwater Trust

The financial status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members.

d. Habitat Action Grants Technical Assessment Panel recommendations

The Habitat Action Grants (HAG) Technical Assessment Panel (TAP) reviewed applications submitted under the latest funding round for the program and their recommendations were previously circulated to RFFTEC members. The TAP recommended conditional support for one project (Project F2) pending further refinement by the applicant and reconsideration by the TAP upon resubmission of the application. Total funding recommended for projects under the saltwater component of the HAG program exceeded the saltwater budget while there was an undersubscription for the freshwater component of the program.

RFFTEC supported all recommendations from the TAP including projects recommended for funding, refinement of the above listed application for further TAP re-evaluation and the reallocation of \$39,193 from the freshwater to saltwater component of the program budget to ensure all recommended projects will be funded. **Moved, Ron Croker, Seconded Debbie Lennon, Carried.**

e. Project variations

Project SF046 Brag mats for when you don't feel like bragging was previously supported by RFFTEC in Meeting 67 for funding of \$4,800. An administrative variation is required to change the grantee from the Darlington Point Riverina Classic Catch and Release Fishing Competition to Apex Club of Coleambally/Darling Point Incorporated as the project will be run under their ABN. **Supported, moved Michael Davey, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.**

Project DPIF066 Making More Maccas was previously supported by RFFTEC in Meeting 66 for total funding of \$287,075 over three years. A significant funding contribution has been received from the Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) for a new project titled Cracking the Code with several interstate collaborators involved and an overall project value of \$3.72 million. It is proposed that Trust project funds previously approved for hatchery support at Narrandera Fisheries Centre totalling \$88,852 over two years be allocated to the larger FRDC Cracking the Code project. Funds would then be drawn from that project to extend the intended Making More Maccas project deliverables at NFC (under a contract arrangement). **Supported. Moved Troy Bright, Seconded Michael Davey, Carried.**

5. Presentations

Presentations and project updates were provided for the following programs: Gone Fishing Day (DPI); Recreational Fishing Trust licensing (DPI); NSW Trout and Murray Cod management strategies (DPI); Narrandera and Gaden hatchery upgrades (DPI); Building a stronger more sustainable freshwater recreational fishery in NSW and advanced Murray Cod stockings (DPI).

6. General business

Project LF027 Tenterfield Dam Recreational Precinct proposed to install a new accessible fishing platform at Tenterfield Dam and was approved by RFFTEC in Meeting 63 for \$250,000 of funding. A project variation was supported by RFFTEC in Meeting 67 for project savings to be put towards an additional kayak launching facility so the dam can be opened to unpowered watercraft in the future and to contribute to the costs of an amenities block if Council was unsuccessful with funding bids through other sources.

Since this project variation was supported, Council has raised additional concerns with DPI about provision of access for unpowered watercraft and access to other parts of the dam due to public safety and water quality concerns, noting the dam provides potable water supply for Tenterfield residents. Council has now indicated that broader access using unpowered watercraft may not be achievable under this project and that access may only be able to be provided on the proposed fishing platform. DPI is continuing discussions with Council on this matter to ensure reasonable recreational fishing access is provided as part of this project, as per the original funding application.

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