

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) meeting OUTCOMES

Meeting Number: 68 **Date:** 3 November 2022 **Time:** 9:00am – 12:15pm

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), John Erskine (Region 7), Troy Bright (Region 8), Karl Mathers (RFNSW), Peter Johnson (NSW Rod Fishers Society), Peter Turnell (DPI)

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Max Graham, Peter Johnson, Peter Turnell

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 67th RFFTEC meeting held on 27 July 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Michael Davey, seconded Troy Bright, carried.**

4. Action items from previous meeting

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

5. Recreational Fishing Trust items

a. Status of the Freshwater Trust

The financial status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members. DPI advised expressions of interest are being sought for upcoming vacancies on the Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure Committees (RFSTEC and RFFTEC).

b. Review of new Freshwater grant applications

A total of eight Freshwater Trust grant applications were received since the last meeting. Funding recommendations with respect to each project (Table 1) will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration prior to submission to the Minister for approval.

6. Presentations

Presentations and project updates were provided for the following programs: Fish for Life program (DPI); Lake Wallace and The Mill Pond access and facility upgrades (Ray Tang, Wallerawang Branch of Central Acclimatisation Society); Behavioural responses in hatchery fish (Dr Raf Freire, Charles Sturt University); Effectiveness of freshwater fish stocking (DPI); Recreational fishing licence administration enhancements project (DPI); and Driving fish habitat action with a Landcare NSW / OzFish community partnership (OzFish).

7. General business

Michael Davey has been nominated to attend the World Recreational Fishing Conference in Melbourne in February 2023 as the RFFTEC representative.

Table 1 Summary of new Freshwater Trust grant applications SUPPORTED for funding by RFFTEC

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2022/23	2023/24
Fence Stiles for facilitating angler access into Travelling Stock Reserves, Crown Lands, Crown Reserves & Council Reserves.	NSW DPI	<p>Angler access to public land (Travelling Stock Reserves, Crown Reserves and Council reserves) is at times restricted by gates being locked as a result from misuse from other user groups, the need to secure stock or the preservation of the environment. In most instances access for fishing is still a permitted and legal activity, however, fences and locked gates make access difficult and pose a risk of injury for anglers who try to navigate through or over them. The installation of fence stiles at these locations will enable safe and convenient angler access to these locations.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved Michael Davey, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.</p>	FW \$23,400	

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2022/23	2023/24
Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) for Dutton Trout Hatchery	NSW DPI	<p>Fund acquisition and installation of a Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) at Dutton Trout Hatchery. This will enable holding and production of larger fish which have been identified as a priority for successful trout stocking in redfin affected waters. Also provides protection from summer temperature spikes and low flow conditions.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved Michael Davey, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.</p>		FW \$245,000

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2022/23	2023/24
Restoring catfish through partnerships – A partnership based traditional approach to restocking and restoring native fish	Edward-Wakool Angling Association (EWAA)	<p>The Edward-Wakool Angling Association, the Joint Indigenous Group and Western Murray Land Improvement Group are working in partnership to restore catfish population in the Murray-Edward-Wakool region. Catfish have significant cultural and recreational value but are almost locally extinct. Restocking of catfish in 3 key traditional wetlands will take place.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved Karl Mathers, Seconded Michael Davey, Carried.</p> <p>RFFTEC noted the applicant must obtain relevant DPI approvals and permits before proceeding with the purchase of fish and stocking activities.</p>	FW \$10,000	
Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) for Gaden Trout Hatchery as part of Major Upgrades	NSW DPI	<p>Fund acquisition and installation of 4 x Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) at Gaden Trout Hatchery. This will enable holding and production of larger fish which have been identified as a priority for successful “advanced fingerlings” trout stocking in redfin affected waters. Also provides protection from summer temperature spikes and low flow conditions. This will give a substantial boost to production capacity at Gaden and will be completed as part of a larger \$8.657 million major development at the site. The project has been under development for some time and despite careful budgeting and cost checking the current tender process has shown the rapid inflation seen in materials and construction costs have increased to a level beyond the initial budget. Savings in the project have been identified and made but this application for additional funding has been made to ensure the project can still deliver the best outcome for recreational fishing in NSW.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Michael Davey, Carried.</p>	FW \$614,460	

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2022/23	2023/24
Trial stocking of advanced Murray cod fingerlings to assist with post-flood recovery	NSW DPI	Fund a trial stocking of advanced Murray cod fingerlings as part of a recovery response following blackwater events and expected fish kills as a result of recent flooding across NSW. As well as funding the purchase of required stock from an approved private hatchery provider, the trial will include a research component to assess the suitability of targeted stocking of sub-adult fish – along with mass stocking of fingerlings produced by DPI’s Narrandera Fisheries Centre – as a recovery response option for future significant fish kill events. SUPPORTED. Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Michael Davey, Carried.	FW \$100,000	

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2022/23	2023/24
NSW Gone Fishing Day 2023 and 2024 – promoting participation and celebrating the benefits of recreational fishing, while supporting local organisations and industries in NSW	NSW DPI	In collaboration with the annual national Gone Fishing, DPI has been running on-ground and virtual activities in NSW since 2015 with funding support from the RFT. The day is all about promoting fishing as a fun, healthy, outdoors fishing activity for the whole family. Each year small funding grants or fishing packages are made available to fishing clubs and organisations to host local events, while the DPI Fishcare Program hosts up to six major community events across NSW. Future Gone Fishing Day events and activities are proposed for 2023 and 2024. SUPPORTED. Moved Troy Bright, Seconded Michael Davey, Carried.	SW \$95,000 FW \$35,000	SW \$95,000 FW \$35,000
Casting for Recovery - A weekend Fly Fishing Retreat for Women with Breast Cancer. An ACT regional project with vision of it becoming an Australian National Project with regional sub branches.	ACT Fly Fishers Inc.	ACT Fly Fishers provide a free Retreat which includes fly fishing tuition on a one to one basis, weekend accommodation and care, for up to 12 women who have had breast cancer. SUPPORTED. Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Karl Mathers, Carried. RFFTEC recommended a reduction in the accommodation cost and removal of the shirts components of the budget. DPI to supply pink Fish For Life shirts to participants for the event.		FW \$10,000 Requested FW \$7,674 Supported

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2023/24	2024/25
Driving Fish Habitat Action-a Landcare NSW/OzFish community partnership	OzFish Unlimited	<p>Forty new (40) waterways will have their local community taking action to improve their health, with fish habitat restoration sites established by OzFish and Landcare combining resources across NSW, building a network of skilled volunteers to continue the work well into the future</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Paul Mullen, Carried.</p> <p>Comment: RFFTEC member Michael Davey declared a potential conflict of interest and left the meeting during discussion of the application.</p>	<p>SW \$169,200</p> <p>FW \$112,800</p>	<p>SW \$169,200</p> <p>FW \$112,800</p>