



Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee Outcomes, 49th meeting Hotel Mercure, Wolli Creek Sydney

26 November 2015

Attendees

Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Ron Butler (Region 2), Ron Croker (Region 3), Ian Ward (Region 4), Tom Williams (Region 5), Debbie Lennon (Region 6), Richard Ping Kee (Region 7), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8), Bryan van der Walt for Peter Turnell (DPI), Cameron Westaway, Craig Watson, Kylie Russell and Scott Nichols (DPI).

1. Chairs introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Max Graham (Region 1)

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous RFFTEC meetings

The draft outcomes of the 48th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Debbie Lennon.

3. Action items from previous meetings

Action items from the previous meeting were noted.

4. Recreational Fishing Trust Report

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented. RFFTEC received updates on the following issues: Smartphone recreational fishing application; recreational fishing guide publications; angling facilities projects and the grants administration internal audit.

5. Review of new 2015/16 Trust funding applications

The committee reviewed new Freshwater Trust grant applications. Funding recommendations with respect to each project were forwarded to ACoRF for subsequent recommendations to the Minister for consideration. Meeting recommendations are provided in Tables 2 and 4.

6. Review of 2015/16 Habitat Grant funding applications

RFFTEC received updates on the Fish Habitat Network program and previously funded freshwater habitat grants. The technical assessment panel (TAP) recently met to assess 16 new freshwater habitat grant applications. Unspent funds (\$20,067.21) from two projects approved for funding during the previous financial year were allocated towards habitat restoration projects in 2015/16. Moved Kevin McKinnon Seconded Ron Croker. A list of projects recommended for funding by the TAP and supported by RFFTEC is provided in Table 1: Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Ian Ward. Projects not supported for funding are listed in Table 3.

7. General business

RFFTEC received updates on the following issues: translocation of catfish within the Gwydir River catchment; NSW Go Fishing Day; Bowfishing carp trial; angler access web delivery; bass stocking at Pejar Dam; collection of genetic samples from hatchery brood stock; status of viral technology to control carp and environmental flows in Coombing Creek below Lake Rowlands, Neville.

8. Meeting closed

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

9. Action items

Action items	Group responsible	Status
That DPI investigates the possibility of stocking Estuary Perch in southern NSW impoundments and prepares a stocking application for consideration at a future meeting, if feasible	Recreational Fisheries Management	Completed
That DPI distributes the new Freshwater Fishing Guides to expenditure committee members	Recreational Fisheries Management	Completed
That DPI advises Tom Williams on status of river flows in Coombing Creek below Lake Rowlands	Regional Officer, Northern (David Ward)	Completed
That DPI investigates the feasibility and requirements for translocation of freshwater catfish in the Gwydir River as part of the existing catfish research program	Fisheries Research (Gavin Butler)	Underway
That DPI provides Ron Croker with Australian bass stocking records for Pejar Dam	Recreational Fisheries Management	Completed
That DPI advises Ian Ward of the procedure for collection of genetic samples from hatchery brood stock	Recreational Fisheries Management	Completed

Table 1: New 2015/16 Habitat Grant funding projects supported by RFFTEC for funding**Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation**

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Namoi River Recreational Fishing Reserve Rehabilitation</p> <p>Enhance and rehabilitate a degraded recreational fishing reserve by removing rubbish, environmental weeds and re-vegetating with native species along the Namoi River.</p>	Narrabri Shire Council, LLS, Narrabri Fishing Club	\$22,605	\$0	\$0
<p>Lower Darling Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Project 15-16</p> <p>Re-introduction of submerged structural woody habitat at two demonstration reaches, upstream of Wentworth and downstream of Pooncarie. <i>Funding supported for the introduction of 10 log jams in the Lower Darling River only.</i></p>	Barkindji Maraura Elders Environment Team (BMEET) Ltd	\$19,860	\$0	\$0
<p>Yass River Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Project</p> <p>Willow control along priority sections of the Yass River in conjunction with a riparian rehabilitation partnership project (Yass Rivers of Carbon) and a Crown Lands willow control project (Yass River Willow Control).</p>	Greening Australia & Yass Acclimatisation Society	\$39,950	\$0	\$0
<p>Sugarloaf Creek Protection</p> <p>Exclude livestock to a 550m reach of Sugarloaf Creek, and undertake secondary weed control to 6ha of riparian vegetation.</p>	MA & PJ Evans	\$11,201	\$0	\$0
<p>Teaming up to target Tuena's threatened species</p> <p>Protect and enhance native fish assemblages in the Abercrombie River through the addition of critical snag sites in an unregulated, low fragility (headwater), and critical drought refuge and biodiversity hotspot for the Lachlan River system.</p>	Central Tablelands Local Lands Services	\$31,690	\$0	\$0
<p>Bourke's Catchin' Fish Again Re-snagging Project</p> <p>Reintroduce locally sourced snags to below the Bourke Weir.</p>	Bourke's Aint Caught Nuffin Fishing Club Inc.	\$13,356	\$0	\$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Bank Rehabilitation and Access enhancement, Gum Flat Reserve, Pallamallawa</p> <p>Redirection of flow using deflection snags to stop erosion, bank rehabilitation (woody weed removal), stabilisation and revegetation works, to improve public recreational fishing access and amenity. <i>Funding supported towards the riparian revegetation and weeding components only.</i></p>	Moree Plains Shire Council	\$8,521		
<p>Fish and Fodder: a win-win for public land use and river conservation</p> <p>Working in 12-Mile Travelling Stock Reserve on the Murray River near Howlong undertaking stock exclusion, vehicle pedestrian access rationalisation and re-establishment of riparian vegetation fishing access and amenity.</p>	Murray Local Land Services	\$25,540		
<p>A welcome addition to Welcome Weir: reinstating LWD within Goobang Creek</p> <p>Improve biodiversity and habitat within Goobang Creek at Welcome Weir by reinstating large woody debris (LWD), removing noxious weeds and rehabilitating riparian vegetation.</p>	Parkes Shire Council	\$1,800		
<p>Enhancing habitat at Lake Endeavour: revegetation and reinstating LWD</p> <p>Improve biodiversity and habitat for native fish within Lake Endeavour by reinstating large woody debris (LWD), removing noxious weeds and rehabilitating riparian vegetation.</p>	Parkes Shire Council	\$2,000		
<p>Fencing Macquarie River Riverbank</p> <p>Fencing 1km of Macquarie River between Narromine and Dubbo to stabilise banks by reducing livestock access to the river. The fencing will improve riparian habitat in the area.</p>	DG and SC Hern	\$2,000		

Table 2: New General Trust Project Applications supported by RFFTEC**Platform: Recreational fishing education**

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Improving access to educational information on humane dispatch for fish species encountered by recreational fishers in New South Wales	DigsFish Services	\$6,300 (SWT)		
Upgrading the www.ikijime.com website and phone applications to improve user access by allowing fishers based in NSW to search from a list of species that only occur in NSW, rather than the whole database.		\$2,700 (FWT)		
SUPPORTED. Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Kevin McKinnon. Will provide guidelines on catch and release fishing methods and effective humane dispatch of fish, linked from the DPI website.				
Delivery of industry representation and consultation services to the NSW recreational fishing sector	DPI	\$175,000 (SWT)		
Proposed tender process to seek appointment of an Executive Officer for a NSW recreational fishing organisation, to enhance representation and consultation with the NSW recreational fishing sector.		\$75,000 (FWT)		
SUPPORTED. Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Ian Ward. Applications for a recreational fisheries industry consultant will be invited via a competitive tender process and evaluated by a tender evaluation committee. The position will be responsible for obtaining the considered views of recreational fishing organisations on recreational fishing related matters.				

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Implementing the NSW Fish Habitat Partnership 2015-2017 Strategic Plan for improved fish habitat outcomes for NSW	Harris Research	\$20,000 (SWT)		
This project will implement Strategy 1 and 4 of the 2015-2017 NSW FHP Strategic Plan. This includes the development of a stakeholder driven 10-year Fish Habitat Action Plan for the state, through extensive consultation and engagement of key stakeholders.		\$10,000 (FWT)		
SUPPORTED. Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Kevin McKinnon. Will provide an avenue for addressing large-scale aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation issues to improve fish habitat and fish populations across NSW.				

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Pump Fishway project	Harris Research	\$26,985		
The Pump Fishway concept has potential to transform the poor performance and prohibitive costs of NSW fishways. Establish proof-of-concept through physical-model development, with hydraulic laboratory observations and experimental trials using hatchery fish.		(SWT)		
		\$11,565		
		(FWT)		
SUPPORTED. Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Ian Ward. Will improve fish passage opportunities over low level fish barriers such as weirs and crossings.				

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Developing cost-effective recreational angler data collection and survey methods in NSW through the use of interactive smartphone technology	Field GIS Australia	\$34,230		
Develop and trial interactive web based and smartphone technology as a monitoring and assessment tool for recreational fisheries in NSW and engage anglers to participate in recording angler effort, catch and harvest for recreational fishery research programs		(SWT)		
		\$14,670		
		(FWT)		
SUPPORTED. Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Ron Croker. Will provide a means for developing a smart phone application for angler involvement in data collection.				
Teaching predator avoidance skills in hatchery yellowfin bream and mangrove jack fingerlings to improve efficiency of stock enhancement programmes.	Southern Cross University	\$9,950		
This project aims to boost survival rates of hatchery-reared fish in stock enhancement programmes by developing methods to teach predator avoidance behaviours fingerlings prior to release.		(SWT)		
		\$9,950		
		(FWT)		
SUPPORTED. Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Ron Croker. Supported subject to the applicant concentrating research on key species only.				

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
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Oberon Dam – Disabled fishing canoe/kayak launch ramp and reserve access upgrade	DPI	\$40,000		
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To install a disabled fishing canoe / kayak launching ramp at Lake Oberon and upgrade public access to Kellys Lane Reserve to improve waterside access to Oberon Dam. With the upgrade of access to Lake Oberon there is special consideration for members of the public with limited physical ability (circulated out of session).

SUPPORTED. Moved Richard Ping Kee, Seconded Ron Croker. Considered a high priority for funding under the Improving Access for fishers with limited physical ability grants program as it will value-add to angler access works previous undertaken along the Lake Oberon foreshore.

Table 3: New Habitat Project Applications not supported by RFFTEC**Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation**

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Restoring the Belubula</p> <p>Remove willows, elms and poplars from the Belubula River. Re-introduce hard wood timber snags. Signs and a brochure will explain the importance of riparian habitats and restore habitat for Mountain galaxias.</p>	Blayney Shire Council	\$39,820	\$0	\$0
<p>Two Rivers Wattle Park Drive (extension) - connecting the Bredbo and Murrumbidgee Rivers to native fish habitat in the upper Murrumbidgee</p> <p>Rehabilitate Bredbo River riparian zone just above the Murrumbidgee River confluence and an upstream 1.5 km corridor along the Bredbo township side. The work will connect two past planting projects</p>	Bredbo Community Landcare Group Inc.	\$26,000	\$0	\$0
<p>'Save the Severn' Severn River Restoration and Rehabilitation</p> <p>Remove invasive species (Honey Locust) along 15km of the Severn River upstream of Ashford NSW. The project will restore fish habitat and remove threats to biodiversity, create skills and learning opportunities.</p>	Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council (ALALC)	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Macdonald River Bendemeer Willow and Privet Control</p> <p>Extend Willow and Privet control along the Macdonald River in 3 locations around Bendemeer township and replanting with local native riparian species. Consolidates work already done by the local Landcare group.</p>	Tamworth Regional Landcare Association	\$39,800		
<p>Riparian Restoration of the Bogan River, Nyngan</p> <p>Restoration of riparian areas of the Bogan River at Nyngan via native re-vegetation of eroded banks, fencing to restrict vehicle access, removal of riverside waste and weeds from camping areas, and providing dedicated boat access points.</p>	Bogan Shire Council	\$17,987.50		
<p>Ramping up fish passage in the Buckinbah</p> <p>Installation of partial width rock-ramp fishway at Buckinbah Creek Weir to improve fish passage</p>	Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association	\$89,520		

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Narrung Street Recreational Fishing Trust habitat rehabilitation project</p> <p>Remove willows and other woody weeds from the 500m stretch of the Murrumbidgee River and rehabilitate the river bank with indigenous reeds and grasses and release endangered fingerlings</p>	Wagga Wagga City Council	\$97,000		
<p>Kyogle Weir Conversion to Fish Passage</p> <p>The existing 1.9m high Kyogle Weir will be reduced by 1.2m and a new rock ramp fishway will be installed to provide fish passage to upstream areas of the Richmond River catchment</p>	Kyogle Council	\$238,022		

Table 4: New General Trust Project Applications not supported by RFFTEC**Platform: Recreational fishing education**

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Promoting sustainable fishing through the Window on the Wetlands Education, Recreation and Cultural Centre	Riversmart Australia Ltd	\$9,014		
<p>Proposal to erect an outdoor sustainable fishing practices information shelter at RiverSmart's Window on the Wetlands Centre, Warren</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Ron Croker. The committee considered this project to have low benefit for recreational fishing.</p>				

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Improved access to the Lachlan River for the Disabled, Elderly & Infirm	Forbes Shire Council	\$154,000		
<p>A ramp will be constructed on the banks of the Lachlan River at Forbes to provide access to the River for the elderly and disabled.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Debbie Lennon. The committee considered this project to be a low priority for funding.</p>				
Lake Keepit Family Fishing Club Ablution Block	Lake Keepit Family Fishing Club	\$29,991		
<p>Construction of an ablution block at the Lake Keepit Family Fishing Club clubhouse to facilitate the annual disability fun day and fishing club members. The disability fishing day is held annually with members of the Gunnedah challenge group and Maitland disability organisation combining to offer the participants an improvement to their lives.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Ron Croker. The committee considered this project to be a low priority for funding. The proposed infrastructure was not considered fisheries specific.</p>				