



## Department of Primary Industries

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)		
MEETING NO.	Meeting 50	DATE	4 May 2016
LOCATION	St George Rowers Club 1 Levey Street, Wollie Creek	TIME	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
ATTENDEES	Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Max Graham (Region 1), 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), Cameron Westaway for Peter Turnell.		
APOLOGIES	Kevin McKinnon (Region 8), Peter Turnell (DPI).		

### 1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

### 2. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 49<sup>th</sup> RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### 3. Action items from previous meeting

The Committee noted the progress on action items from the previous meeting.

### 4. Status of the Freshwater Trust

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented. RFFTEC received updates on the following issues: Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council; development of a recreational fishing smartphone application; recent appointment of the new Director of Fisheries Research; summary of recreational fishing licence sales; Recreational Fishing Trusts promotions, "Go Fishing NSW Day" and summary of results of the "Survey of Recreational Fishing in NSW 2013/14."

### 5. Review of new Freshwater Trust applications

The committee reviewed new Freshwater Trust grant applications. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration. Meeting recommendations are provided in Tables 1 and 2.

### 6. Presentations and project updates

RFFTEC received updates on the following projects: Building a stronger, more resilient and sustainable Murray Cod fishery in NSW, monitoring the Australian Bass fishery in NSW "Bass Catch", monitoring of the movement patterns of Australian Bass within the Clarence River and the movement patterns of Freshwater Catfish within the Gwydir and Mehi Rivers and a post stocking survey of Mangrove Jack within Clarrie Hall dam.

## 7. General business

RFFTEC discussed the following issues: effects of catch and release fishing on Australian Bass in high concentration areas; translocation of freshwater catfish within the Gwydir / Mehi River catchments; re-assessment population status of Murray Crayfish within Blowering Dam.

## 8. Next meeting

TBC

## Previous meeting

Action	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	Completed
That DPI distributes the new Freshwater Fishing Guides to expenditure committee members	Completed
That DPI advises Tom Williams on status of river flows in Coombing Creek below Lake Rowlands	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	Completed
That DPI provides Ron Croker with Australian bass stocking records for Pejar Dam	Completed
That DPI advises Ian Ward of the procedure for collection of genetic samples from hatchery brood stock	Completed

## This meeting

Item	Issue	Action
1.	That DPI circulates the executive summary of the National Recreational Fishing Survey to RFFTEC members and places the survey report and Recreational Fishing Trust report within the shared Google Drive	Completed
2.	That DPI investigate the possibility of a re-assessing the status of the Murray Crayfish population within Blowering Dam since the 2010/2011 blackwater events.	Completed



## Department of Primary Industries

**Table 1: New Trust Project Applications supported by RFFTEC**

**Platform: Recreational Fishing Education**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>Go Fishing NSW Day 2016 – promoting fishing as a healthy, fun, outdoors activity.</b> Following the success of the NSW Go Fishing NSW Day in December last year, it is proposed to hold the second day on 16 October 2016. The day will recognise and promote the importance of recreational fishing as a healthy, fun, outdoors activity. The day will coincide with the inaugural National Recreational Fishing Day, which is being run by the Australian Fishing Trade Association. Bryan van der Walt and Cameron Westaway declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. <b>SUPPORTED</b> Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Max Graham. The Go Fishing NSW Day will increase participation in recreational fishing with associated social benefits.</p>	NSW DPI	SW \$133,000 FW \$57,000	\$0
<p><b>Traditional Fish</b> The project aims to prevent isolation with Aboriginal men with a disability, using fishing and talking group (yarning circle) whilst engaging in recreational fishing. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Max Graham, Seconded Ron Croker.</p>	Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council	\$5,435	\$0
<p><b>Moree Lions Club kids fishing day</b> To promote correct fishing methods with kids under 12 years of age with their families, whilst conducting a community event. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Ron Butler Condition – That the DPI Education Officer contacts the applicant to provide a format for running community fishing events.</p>	Lions Club of Moree	\$9,800	\$0

**Platform: Recreational Fishing Education**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>Lithgow High School aquaculture and fishing sustainability project</b>            Determining growth rates and displacement of natural species. Fingerlings to be nurtured at LHS aquaculture facility, transferred to temporary holding dam where growth rates are measured and fish tagged before being released locally to be caught and monitored.  <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Tom Williams. Will increase knowledge and participation in fish breeding and aquaculture. Condition – That fish are <u>not</u> stocked into the river and are either utilised or released into a local farm/school dam upon completion of the project.</p>	Lithgow High School	\$10,000	\$0
<p><b>Engaging young recreational fishers in the importance of river health</b>            This project aims to provide fun, attractive and age appropriate educational materials in the resources pack for competitions at the annual Namoi River Carp Muster at Narrabri.  <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Max Graham. The project will increase participation in recreational fishing. Condition – Funding provided to assist in the running of the carp muster community event. That the DPI Inland Education Officer provides additional advisory / education material for the carp muster resource packs.</p>	Narrabri Amateur Fishing Club Inc.	\$2,000	\$0
<p><b>Tenterfield Shire fishing information leaflet for visitors and local residents</b>            To provide visitors to the Tenterfield Shire information about locations and regulations related to fishing in the area. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Will promote recreational fishing locations / opportunities within the Tenterfield region. Condition – Funding is subject to the content of the brochure being reviewed by the Recreational Fisheries Manager (Inland) prior to publication, to ensure recreational fishing content is accurate.</p>	Ratepayers Association of Tenterfield Shire	\$1,000	\$0
<p><b>Inland Fishing Summit</b>            Empowering existing recreational fishing groups, by exposing them to highly successful models of fundraising, better enabling them to increase community support and contribute back to the fishery through habitat management. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Max Graham, Seconded Richard Ping Kee. Condition - Funding conditional to the workshop presenting a range of recreational fishing projects (e.g. recreational fishing competition management, guidelines for running a successful fishing club, recreational fisheries research programs, Fishcare program, best catch and release procedures etc.), to broaden the scope of the discussion.</p>	OzFish Unlimited	\$39,500	\$0

**Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>Developing mangrove jack as a new key species for freshwater recreational fishing in NSW – Phase 4: Fishery survey of Clarrie Hall dam and continuation of stocking</b>                      The development of a recreational fishery based on mangrove jack in Clarrie Hall Dam is well underway, but now requires a post-stocking survey (24 months post first fingerling release), and further stocking effort. This application will cover the costs of a comprehensive post-stocking survey by electrofishing, netting and trapping, and the production of a further batch of 8,000 fingerlings for release in the 2016/17 summer. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ron Croker Seconded Ron Butler. The project will conduct post monitoring research on the success of recent Mangrove Jack stockings in Clarrie Hall dam and will produce a further batch of fingerlings at the National Marine Science Centre for stocking, to enhance recreational fishing opportunities.</p>	Southern Cross University	SW \$26,279 FW \$26,279	\$0
<p><b>Macquarie perch refuge project</b>                      The continued monitoring and management of the Retreat River Macquarie Perch refuge population and the continued holding of Lachlan Macquarie perch bred at Narrandera for future possible captive breeding. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ron Croker Seconded Ron Butler. The project will ensure the preservation of Macquarie Perch within the Lachlan River catchment and will continue to investigate improvements to captive breeding techniques of Macquarie Perch.</p>	NSW DPI	\$36,000	\$0
<p><b>Fishing for answers: unlocking the secrets of spawning and recruitment for Murray-Darling recreational species</b>                      Understanding spawning and recruitment is fundamental for effective fisheries management. This project will identify and map spawning and recruitment zones for Murray cod, silver perch and golden perch. Dr Gavin Butler was not present at the meeting during discussion and voting. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Max Graham Seconded Richard Ping Kee. Will undertake a comprehensive spawning and recruitment study of native recreational fish species within the Murray Darling Basin. Condition - Initial tranche provided over 2 years, subject to the applicant securing remaining funding to implement the project.</p>	Charles Sturt University	\$50,000	\$50,000
<p><b>Providing vital information necessary to enhance and manage the iconic Murray crayfish recreational fishery</b>                      The project will monitor the recovery of blackwater affected populations and the status of open areas as well as undertake stock enhancement to aid the management of the recreational fishery. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ron Croker Seconded Tom Williams. A collaborative research program to monitor temporal trends in Murray Crayfish populations across the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers, to assist in species recovery and management of the Murray Crayfish fishery into the future.</p>	Nature Glenelg Trust	\$95,000	\$0

**Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>Monitoring the Australian bass fishery in NSW: “Bass Catch”</b>                      The Australian bass fishery is the most popular freshwater fishery in NSW coastal rivers and impoundments. The Bass Catch Program is currently the only coordinated monitoring program that specifically targets the species throughout NSW. This proposal is to: a) secure funds to undertake a series of workshops throughout the NSW involving key stakeholders to determine the perceived long-term needs of the Australian bass fishery, b) continue the collection of data from angler tournaments 2016-18, c) continue the entry and analysis of data as it comes in 2016-18. Dr Gavin Butler was not present at the meeting during discussion and voting. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Max Graham, Seconded Ron Butler.                      *Condition – Funding supported for 1 year only. Review of project to be carried out on future directions of the project.</p>	NSW DPI	\$71,616	*\$63,655

**Platform: Fishing access and facilities**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>Warrena Weir, Coonamble fish cleaning tables</b>                      Provision of 2 fish cleaning shelters at Warrena Weir, Coonamble to enhance facilities for all recreational fishers and other users of the Warrena Weir. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ian Ward Seconded Max Graham. The project will provide recreational fishing infrastructure at Warrena Weir, Coonamble. Condition - Funding allocated towards the construction of 1 fish cleaning shelter only.</p>	Coonamble Shire Council	\$14,558	\$0
<p><b>Improving access to the Lachlan River at Forbes for the disabled, elderly and infirm</b>                      To construct a disabled accessible fishing platform at Cottons Weir on the Lachlan River at Forbes. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ron Croker Seconded Richard Ping Kee. The project will provide recreational fishing infrastructure at Cottons Weir and will improve access for fishers with limited physical ability.</p>	Forbes Shire Council	\$60,000	\$0

**Platform: Fishing access and facilities**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>Morley’s Creek, Gundagai fishing platform</b>            To construct a 6 meter long fishing platform on Morley’s Creek for use by recreational anglers. The jetty will be particularly useful for those teaching kids to fish as it will be a flat and level base away from branches and other obstacles that can make learning to cast difficult. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Max Graham Seconded Debbie Lennon. The project will provide recreational fishing infrastructure at Gundagai. Condition – That the fishing platform design is reviewed by DPI prior to construction to ensure it meets best practice guidelines. It was noted that the platform should be promoted as a tourist attraction at the Gundagai Visitor Information Centre and adequately sign posted.</p>	Gundagai Shire Council	\$61,600	\$0
<p><b>Risk assessment for recreational fishing in Sydney water supply dams</b>            To conduct a risk assessment regarding potential recreational fishing activities in water supply reservoirs (including in the Sydney catchment area), which are currently closed to fishing. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Richard Ping Kee Seconded Tom Williams.</p>	NSW DPI	\$30,000	\$0
<p><b>“Our River – Regatta Park, Emu Plains” large fishing platform</b>            To construct a large fishing platform, pedestrian access and enhancement of riparian vegetation in accordance with the progressive implementation of the “Our River” Master Plan. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ian Ward Seconded Max Graham. The project will provide recreational fishing infrastructure along the Nepean River, Penrith. Condition – That funding is allocated for construction of the fishing platform component only. That a hand rail is incorporated into the design of the fishing platform. That the fishing platform design is reviewed by DPI prior to construction to ensure it meets best practice guidelines.</p>	Penrith City Council	\$55,000	\$0
<p><b>Glenriddle Reserve Barraba recreational fishing upgrade – fish cleaning station</b>            To install a Custom Orb Curved Roof Fish Cleaning Station with pressurised water beside the new boat ramp at Glenriddle Reserve on the top end of Split Rock Dam (10km south of Barraba). <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ian Ward Seconded Richard Ping Kee. The project will provide recreational fishing infrastructure at the Glenriddle public reserve at Split Rock Dam.</p>	Tamworth Regional Council	\$14,660	\$0

**Platform: Fishing access and facilities**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<b>Creating access - Lake Centenary fishing precinct, Temora</b> To enable access to Lake Centenary for recreational fishing in an area currently inaccessible due to biosecurity considerations of a neighbouring facility by constructing a security fence between the facilities and installing physical access. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Tom Williams Seconded Richard Ping Kee. The project will enhance recreational fishing opportunities by improving angler access to the northern and western shoreline of Lake Centenary.	Temora Shire Council	\$9,820	\$0

**Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<b>Give the fingerlings more air - Bingara Hatchery</b> To renew the airline set up to provide more air for the fingerlings at Bingara hatchery. Ian Ward declared a potential conflict of interest. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Max Graham. Will enhance fish breeding capacity of a non-for-profit community run fish hatchery, accredited under the HQAS.	Bingara Anglers Club and Hatchery	\$4,479	\$0
<b>Research trial stocking of Estuary Perch fingerlings within Brogo Dam</b> To undertake a research trial stocking of up to 20,000 Estuary Perch fingerlings within Brogo dam over 2 years to provide NSW anglers with an exciting new high quality recreational fishing opportunity. Cameron Westaway and Craig Watson declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. <b>SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Ron Croker. Will enhance fishing attraction and angling opportunities at Brogo dam, by diversifying anglers catch.	NSW DPI	\$40,000	\$0



**Table 2: New Trust Project Applications not supported by RFFTEC**

**Platform: Recreational fishing education**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>Strengthening the lines of communication – An approach for sustainable development of recreational fishing</b>                      This project will develop state-of-the-art tools, such as a smartphone app and website, to help government in collecting data critical to recreational fishing while supporting recreational anglers to make the best out of their fishing experience and contribute effectively to sustainable development of the recreational fishing industry. <b>NOT SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Tom Williams The committee considered that the proposal may provide a commercial benefit to the provider. It was also noted that DPI is currently developing a smartphone application to provide users with information on fishing rules, closures FAD and artificial reef locations, safety tips, tide phases etc.</p>	CrowdData Pty. Ltd	SW \$76,636 FW \$32,844	\$0
<p><b>Nepean River fishing area signage</b>                      To provide appropriate educational signage to inform users of the Nepean River for fishing activities. Work in partnership with NSW District Fishing Officers to identify appropriate signs with current relevant information at the known popular hand held craft launching sites and also known used public reserve sites. Signage will focus primarily on bass fish as the Nepean is a very popular bass fishing location. <b>NOT SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Richard Ping Kee. The committee acknowledged the benefits of the program, however suggested that the Recreational Fisheries Manager and local District Fisheries Officer contact the applicant to provide existing relevant signage for installation, with funds provided by DPI and/or from the Trust funded Inland Fisheries Management program.</p>	Camden Council	\$770	\$0
<p><b>Upgrade 3 existing boat ramp's by installing information signs</b>                      Upgrade 3 existing boat ramps with the installation of information signs (catch and release, safe use of the river, and other fish related information). <b>NOT SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Max Graham, Seconded Ron Croker. The committee acknowledged the benefits of the program, however suggested the Recreational Fisheries Manager and local District Fisheries Officer contact the applicant to review signage content and co-ordinate installation of signs where relevant, with funds provided by DPI and/or from the Trust funded Inland Fisheries Management program.</p>	Nangiloc Fishing Club Inc.	\$9,000	\$0

**Platform: Recreational fishing education**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>Smart Fisherman: using technology for better management of the fish and riverine environment</b>                      This project will utilise a smart phone app to help monitor, record and analyse fish numbers and localities to improve the overall management of the Namoi River and better engage fishers. <b>NOT SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Ron Butler. It was noted that DPI is currently developing a smartphone application to provide users with information on fishing rules, closures FAD and artificial reef locations, safety tips, tide phases etc.</p>	Narrabri Amateur Fishing Club Inc.	\$38,000	\$0

**Platform: Fishing access and facilities**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>Value Capture</b>                      A research project to identify ways in which water utility companies can capture extra value from water infrastructure (dams, lakes, reservoirs), including fishing, sailing, adjacent land development, tourism (caravan parks, yachting), higher education (marine biology, aquaculture, etc.), preventative health (fitness training) and professional rowing and other sporting clubs, electricity generation and any others identified through the course of this project. This is in addition to those traditional purposes normally identified (water infrastructure for mining, agriculture and to mitigate flooding). <b>NOT SUPPORTED</b> – Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Ron Croker.</p>	Australian Water Association	\$35,000	\$0
<p><b>Boat ramp and disabled jetty access to the Billabong Creek at Jerilderie</b>                      Install a 4 x 4.8m floating fishing platform with disabled access and a concrete boat ramp. Located behind the Jerilderie Sports Club Tennis courts allowing back access from the Jerilderie Caravan Park and General Public. <b>NOT SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Richard Ping Kee Seconded Ron Croker. The project was considered a multi-purpose facility and public access arrangements to the jetty were not clearly specified. It was recommended that the applicant investigate alternative funding sources e.g. "NSW Boating Now program" or resubmit a recreational fisheries specific infrastructure application in an area with broader public access.</p>	Jerilderie Fishing Club / Sports Club	\$10,000	\$0

**Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p><b>ANGFA NSW waterway survey and education program</b>            ANGFA NSW surveys of waterways within NSW to promote the study, conservation and culture of Native Freshwater Species of Australia, and provide a forum for the exchange of information. <b>NOT SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Debbie Lennon Seconded Max Graham. The project was not considered to be recreational fisheries specific. DPI and other agencies are undertaking a comprehensive fish species monitoring program.</p>	ANGFA NSW Waterway Survey and Education Program	\$7,121	\$0
<p><b>Enhancing the quality of recreational fishing and improving perceptions of the recreational fishing community in NSW through Carp biocontrol</b>            Biological control of Carp to transform the health of waterways and fisheries in NSW, and nationally. The project will facilitate active participation of recreational fishers in NSW in Australia's carp biocontrol program. Cameron Westaway declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. <b>NOT SUPPORTED.</b> Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Ron Croker. It was noted a significant commonwealth grant has been provided to implement the program. Applicant may re-apply if Commonwealth funding does not cover NSW consultation.</p>	NSW DPI	\$129,724	\$46,880