

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)		
MEETING NO.	Meeting 62	DATE	1 September 2020
LOCATION	Videoconference	TIME	2:00pm – 4:00pm
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), Peter Johnson (NSW Rod Fishers' Society), Karl Mathers (RFNSW) and Peter Turnell (NSW DPI).		

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Max Graham.

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 61st RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Debbie Lennon, Carried.

4. Action items from previous meeting

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

5. Recreational Fishing Trust items

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members. Statistics and trends of licence sales for the various licence types were discussed. The committee considered the concept of combining the Saltwater and Freshwater Recreational Fishing Trusts in the future to reduce administration burden.

a) Development of the next Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan

The current 2018/19-2020/21 Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan finishes on 30 June 2021. It is proposed to develop a new 3 year Investment Plan commencing 1 July 2021. As part of this process, a call for new applications for funding will be released soon.

b) Review of new Freshwater grant applications

Two new freshwater applications were received. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration prior to submission to the Minister for approval.

6. Presentations

RFFTEC received updates on the following projects: fish stocking, fuel card grants; infrastructure redevelopment at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre, freshwater research for Murray Cod, freshwater catfish, golden perch and Eastern Cod, Fishcare, Get Hooked...it's fun to fish, fishing workshops and Gone Fishing Day 2020. Key outcomes are:

- the 2020/21 fish stocking season has commenced, with 193,000 Australian Bass and 109,000 trout stocked to date.
- 22 fuel card grants have been distributed to groups involved in upcoming fish stocking events.
- fish population monitoring results suggest that environmental flows are a major determinant in spawning and recruitment success of native fish populations across the Murray Darling Basin. The loss of persistent floodplain habitat due to river regulation and water extraction is a key factor contributing to the lower levels of recruitment among large bodied native fish populations.

8. General business

Peter Johnson sought an update on the status of the angler access website and approval of previously supported Trust funded programs. Cameron Westaway advised that a new angler access map is being developed for the website, which is set to include a grading system to differentiate between ground-truthed sites vs sites under investigation. The map will be merged with the fish stocking map so that stocking and access locations are displayed concurrently. It is planned that a site assessment form will also be built into the map to assist with angler site evaluations. An announcement on projects to be funded from the Recreational Fishing Trusts is expected soon.

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

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
Bingara Fish Hatchery upgrade	Bingara Anglers	To improve the community Bingara Fish Hatchery facilities to ensure ongoing stockings of native fish in the New England region. The hatchery is run by volunteers and produces fish for stocking in public waterways. SUPPORTED. Moved: Peter Johnson, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried.	\$174,905	

Table 2. Summary of new Freshwater Trust grant applications NOT SUPPORTED for funding by RFFTEC

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
Cumnock Community Fish re-stock	Cumnock fishing community	To re-stock the local waterways after water conditions killed extensive amounts of fish. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Michael Davey, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried. The committee referred the application to DPI Fisheries to incorporate publicly accessible sites with good water quality conditions into the upcoming DPI drought recovery stocking program to avoid overlap.	\$4,000	