



# Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee Outcomes, 46<sup>th</sup> meeting

## Out of Session Review of Habitat Action Program Teleconference

02 December 2014

### Attendees

Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Ron Croker (Region 3), Tom Williams (Region 5), Richard Ping Kee (Region 7), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8), Bryan van der Walt for Peter Turnell (DPI).

### 1. Chairs introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

Max Graham (Region 1), Ron Butler (Region 2), Ian Ward (Region 4), Debbie Lennon (Region 6).

### 3. Review of 2014/15 Habitat Grant funding applications

The status of the Fish Habitat Network program was presented by DPI. A total of 15 new freshwater habitat grant applications were received this year in response to the expression of interest. The freshwater habitat grants technical assessment panel (TAP) recently met to assess habitat grant applications submitted in 2014/15. The TAP developed a list of recommended projects in Table 1, which were supported by RFFTEC. Moved Tom Williams, Seconded Richard Ping Kee. Comments in relation to projects recommended for funding are written in italics. Projects not supported for funding are listed in Table 2.

Two (2) habitat action grant projects approved for funding during the previous financial year were not able to proceed. These projects are: Belubula River Fishing Park, Blayney, applicant Central Acclimatisation Society, Blayney Branch - Funds unspent \$8,285 (Tom Williams declared a potential conflict of interest) and Lachlan River Remediation Project, applicant Hoey Family Trust - Funds unspent \$9,550. Unspent funds from these project have been allocated towards habitat restoration projects in 2014/15. Moved Richard Ping Kee Seconded Ron Croker.

**Table 1: New 2014/15 Habitat Grant funding projects supported by RFFTEC for funding**

Project Title	Applicant	Summary	2014/15
Mending our Macquarie. Big Wood for Macquarie Native Fish!	Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association	Installation of snags in the Macquarie River at locations identified through habitat mapping to be deficient in this key type of fish habitat combined with willow control activities. 60 trees to be installed at 13 complexes within an 80km reach of the river. <i>Mr Kevin McKinnon noted that this group has previously undertaken high quality habitat restoration activities.</i>	\$33,348
Controlling Cat's Claw Creeper in the Dumaresq Catchment	Inverell Shire Council	This project will improve recreational fishing access by controlling Weed of National Significance, Cat's Claw Creeper on the Dumaresq River. It involves a NSW-Queensland cross-border collaboration of government, community and private landholders, across 165km of riparian land.	\$31,103
Boree Creek Willow Removal, Weed Control and Replanting	Boree Creek Landcare Group	The project is aimed at weed removal, native vegetation enhancement & stream bank stabilisation along a 4km stretch of Boree Creek. The existing River She Oak gallery forest is infested with willows, hawthorn, blackberry, hemlock and phalaris grass.	\$14,390
Weir to Bridge - Exotic Invasive Weed Removal along the Macintyre River, Inverell	Inverell Shire Council	This project is stage one of a two-stage project. Stage one will see the removal of heavy infestations of exotic invasive weed species along the riparian area (1.5 Km) of the Macintyre River from Town Weir to Ring Street Bridge in Inverell.	\$17,850
Trees for the "Pumpkin Patch"	Bundi Fishing Club	The project will enhance fish habitat at Pumpkin Waterhole on the Macquarie River by restoring riparian habitat. The project will involve the planting of 400 trees and the control of invasive tree species along 1km of riparian area. <i>Mr Tom Williams noted that public access is limited at the proposed habitat restoration location. DPI advised that fishing access is available by kayak from Dixon's Long Point, approximately 5km upstream from the habitat rehabilitation site.</i>	\$ 13,590
Osage orange control in the Little River Catchment	Yeoval Fishing Club	Osage orange has emerged as a threat to the aquatic habitat of the Little River catchment in central west NSW. Our goal is to eradicate all the trees currently growing in the riparian area along Loombah and Buckinbah Creeks using drill and stem injection methods, estimate 200 trees over 4ha.	\$ 2,162

Project Title	Applicant	Summary	2014/15
Restoration of Fish Habitat in the Cudgegong River at Rylstone	Rylstone District Environment Society	The project will improve fish habitat in the Cudgegong River between Rylstone Weir and Rylstone Common by eradicating weeds and revegetating with native endemic species, 4 km, 4 ha. Fish will have increased oxygen, shelter and food and more stable water temperature due to less deciduous tree cover and increased native riparian life. <i>Mr Richard Ping Kee queried ongoing maintenance of habitat restoration works. DPI advised that a maintenance plan is incorporated into project funding deeds as a condition of funding.</i>	\$ 23,912
Lower Darling Fish Habitat Rehabilitation project	Barkindji Maraura Elders Environment Team (BMEET) Ltd	Re-introduction of submerged structural woody habitat (commonly called snags) in the Pomona Priority Habitat Reach of the Lower Darling River to restore the ecological function of this river area for native fish, minimum of 10 snags/complexes over 3.5 km. <i>DPI noted that some components of this project will be reviewed to ensure project outcomes are focussed directly on fish habitat improvements.</i>	\$ 21,480

**Table 2: New 2014/15 Habitat Grant funding projects not supported by RFFTEC**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
Tenterfield Creek Fish and Platypus Habitat Restoration Project	Granite Borders Landcare Committee Incorporated	Restore a degraded recreational area by replacing exotic weeds with native vegetation and constructing a creek bed control structure at an eroding head cut to improve aquatic habitat to protect fish and platypus populations in the Tenterfield Creek	\$40,000
Rocky Bridge Creek rehabilitation	Neville and Region Landcare Inc.	To remove blockages at the causeway, implement erosion prevention, spray weeds and poison willows. Fence the area to limit stock access and rehabilitate degraded areas	\$36,100
"Bourke's Catchin' Fish Again Re-snagging Project	Bourke's A'int Caught Nuffin' Fishing Club Inc.	The Bourke A'int Caught Nuffin' Fishing Club will reintroduce locally sourced snags to the Bourke weir pool to increase native fish habitat. The benefits of improving native fish habitat will be communicated to the local community and others through locally run events.	\$40,000
Bank Rehabilitation and Access Enhancement Gum Flat Reserve, Pallamallawa	Moree Plains Shire Council	River bank rehabilitation, stabilisation and revegetation works, with woody weed removal, to control erosion and related river siltation, to provide long term riverine habitat and to improve public recreational fishing access and amenity in this location.	\$19,081
Save the Severn	Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council	Protect critical aquatic eco systems on part of the Severn River by controlling weeds and feral animals, restoring riparian vegetation and native habitat and stabilising stream banks to increase the productivity of surrounding land and reducing degradation of the river.	\$40,000
Protecting Fish Habitat of the Bredbo Gorge	Australian River Restoration Centre	This project will protect high quality riparian vegetation of the Bredbo Gorge, which is the known habitat of several endangered fish species by controlling mature willows and isolated stands of blackberry. This project will produce a project place to promote value of and the importance of protecting riparian zones to protect fish habitat, as well as the role of the community in doing so.	\$16,700
Protecting the Pumpkin Patch Indi River Reserve	Khancoban Angling Club	Undertake riparian fencing, erosion protection works, weed management and revegetation at the Indi River Reserve to improve fish habitat.	\$15,100