

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)		
MEETING NO.	Meeting 51	DATE	4 August 2016
LOCATION	Mercure Sydney International Airport 22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek	TIME	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
ATTENDEES	Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Max Graham (Region 1), Ron Croker (Region 3), Ian Ward (Region 4), Tom Williams (Region 5), Debbie Lennon (Region 6), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8), Bryan van der Walt for Peter Turnell.		
APOLOGIES	Ron Butler (Region 2), Richard Ping Kee (Region 7), 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 50th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting (Moved Max Graham, Seconded Tom Williams).

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: summary of recreational fishing licence sales; sale of recreational fishing licences by postcode; Recreational Fishing Trusts promotions; summary of Trust funded projects since 2003/04; internal grants administration risk audit and review; "Gone Fishing Day" advisory event; fishing club grants for fishing day activities and Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council.

5. Trust report for RFNSW

Expenditure committee members discussed the Trust fund assessment process including methods for determining the extent of benefit of the many different grant project types. Members commented on the strengths and challenges on current operation of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and how current processes around project assessment could be improved. A Trust operations report was then developed for submission to RFNSW, based on comments and feedback from RFFTEC and RFFTEC members.

6. Presentations and project updates

RFFTEC received updates on the following projects: aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation – Greater Murray; fisheries compliance, carp biological control and bass catch review. The bass catch program review found that historical data provides an insight into spatial and temporal trends in mean length and maximum length of fish populations and how stocking and flows can affect relative species abundance. DPI will undertake the following actions as recommended at the April budget meeting to ensure the bass catch project continues to both engage fishers and provide scientifically rigorous information into the future (1) develop a brand and home for anglers catch data; (2) hold a series of workshops involving key stakeholders to clarify aspirations of participants; (3) adopt new technology for data entry, analysis and reporting (e.g. anglers catch database

smartphone app., generation of a real time leader board); (4) develop management strategy rules based on data collected and (5) recognition and certification for long-term participants.

6. General business

RFFTEC members queried whether an amendment to threatened species legislation was possible to provide limited recreational fishing opportunities for stocked Trout Cod in rivers (i.e. catch and release fishing or a bag limit of 1). Cameron Westaway noted that an update on the review of the Trout Cod recovery program will be sought from the Senior Fisheries Manager, Threatened Species. DPI discussed the issue of recreational fishing access to Denison camp area, Eucumbene River. It was noted that the high quality of recreational fishing experienced during the Eucumbene River brown trout spawning run has resulted in increased numbers of anglers fishing in this area during the trout spawning streams fishing period. However the large number of vehicles has created some problems with people using unformed tracks to access the river foreshore. A Trust application is being considered to assist with the management of vehicle access, to reduce congestion along the foreshore and protect shoreline vegetation.

7. Next meeting

Thursday 17th of November, 2016

Previous 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

This meeting

Item	Issue	Action
1.	That Cameron Westaway liaises with freshwater ecosystems unit regarding the possibility of re-assessing the status of Murray Crayfish at Blowering Dam.	Completed
2.	That Cameron Westaway liaises with the threatened species unit regarding the possibility of recreational fishing stakeholder input as part of the next review of the Trout Cod recovery plan.	Completed