

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) meeting OUTCOMES

Meeting Number: 66 **Date:** 30 November 2023 **Time:** 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Location: Videoconference

Invitees: Bruce Schumacher AM (Chair), Paul Connellan (Region 1), David Faircloth (Region 2), Craig Cameron (Region 3), Geoff Shelton (Region 4), Michael Aubrey (Region 5), Sami Omari (Region 6), Ann Garard (Region 7), Micah Adams (Region 8), Grahame Williams OAM (NSW Game Fishing Association), Ryan Lungu (OzFish), Adrian Wayne (Australian Underwater Federation), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI)

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Ryan Lungu, Peter Turnell

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 65th RFSTEC meeting held on 4 May 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded Ann Garard, Carried.**

4. Recreational Fishing Trust items

a. Trust funding round

The Minister announced the opening of the next Recreational Fishing Trust Funding round on 2 November 2023 with a closing date of 18 December 2023. The invitation to apply for funding has been widely circulated to stakeholders and advertised via Newscast (580,000 subscribers) and the NSW Government grants finder webpage. During this funding round there is an additional focus for projects which provide fishing opportunities for people with disabilities.

b. NSW Grants Administration Guide

The NSW Government Grants Administration Guide outlines requirements for agencies to follow when administering grant programs, including taking account of the seven key principles of grants administration. These principles are robust planning and design; collaboration and partnership; proportionality; outcomes orientation; achieving value for money; governance and accountability; and probity and transparency. Applications must meet eligibility criteria before being provided to

the expenditure committees for review and the committees will consider each application against defined assessment criteria.

c. Status of the saltwater Trust

The financial status of the Saltwater Trust was presented to members.

d. Habitat Action Grants Technical Assessment Panel recommendations

The Habitat Action Grants (HAG) Technical Assessment Panel (TAP) reviewed applications submitted under the latest funding round for the program and their recommendations were previously circulated to RFSTEC members. The total amount of funding recommended for projects under the saltwater component of the HAG program exceeded the saltwater budget while there was an undersubscription for the freshwater component of the program.

RFSTEC supported all recommendations from the TAP including projects recommended for funding and the reallocation of \$39,193 from the freshwater to saltwater component of the program budget to ensure all recommended projects will be funded. **Moved Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded Paul Connellan, Carried.**

e. Project variation

Project LS066 Jervis Bay/Currumbene Creek/Myola fishing access improvements was previously supported by RFSTEC in Meeting 59 for funding of \$78,140. Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) has since identified the need for significant design changes which will increase project costs beyond the project budget. SCC has requested that all previously approved project funding be used for design and planning expenses.

RFSTEC did not support this proposal and recommended that SCC submits a new application for the revised works including additional design and planning expenses. **Moved Ann Garard, Seconded Grahame Williams OAM, Carried.**

5. Presentations

Presentations and project updates were provided for the following programs: Gone Fishing Day (DPI); Recreational Fishing Trust licensing (DPI); Clean Safe Wharves (DPI); FADs and artificial reefs (DPI); Game Fish Tagging (DPI); and Rec Fisher Habitat Capacity (OzFish Unlimited).

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