

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)
MEETING NO.	Meeting 56
DATE	15 March 2018
LOCATION	St George Rowers Club, 1 Levey Street, Wollie Creek
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), John Erskine (Region 7), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8), Steve Samuels (RFA NSW), Peter Gibson (NSW CFA), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI)
APOLOGIES	Peter Turnell (DPI), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8)

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 55th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting Moved Max Graham, Seconded Tom Williams, Carried.

3. Action items from previous meeting

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

4. Recreational Fishing Trust update

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members. The committee was advised that RFFTEC had supported an additional allocation of \$1,000,000 in top up funding in 2018/2019 from the Saltwater Trust to the Freshwater Trust. This recommendation was supported by RFFTEC. Moved Peter Gibson Seconded Debbie Lennon, Carried

5. Review of Freshwater Trust grant applications

A total of 42 freshwater applications were received. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration (refer to Annex 1).

6. Presentation

DPI presented an overview of a social licence strategy being developed based on the need to develop a "brand" for recreational fishing in NSW on which future social licence campaigns can be based. Members were advised on the need for any branding exercise to be long-term in nature – for example, a minimum of 3-5 years.

7. General business

The FRDC has received funding from the MDBA for discriminating stocked vs wild fish as part of a FishGen project. Peter Gibson was nominated on the application evaluation panel member for the fuel cards grants program.

8. Next meeting

4 July 2018, Nowra NSW Government Office

Annex 1. Summary of funding recommendations

Projects **SUPPORTED** for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Bigger fish for Snowy Lakes	NSW DPI	Construct a new hatchery building to augment production of quality trout fingerlings for stocking within the Snowy Mountains region. Steve Samuels declared a potential conflict of interest and abstained from voting. Cameron Westaway declared a potential conflict of interest. Supported: Moved Tom Williams, Seconded Ron Croker, Carried.	\$30,000	\$200,000	\$0
Dollar for dollar native fish stocking program	NSW DPI	To provide funding to match stocking groups in the raising of funds to purchase native fish from private hatcheries to stock into public waterways. Supported: Moved Steve Samuels, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Enhanced Fish Production	NSW DPI	To provide additional operational funding at Government fish hatcheries to increase fish production / stocking capabilities and enhance recreational fishing opportunities. Cameron Westaway declared a potential conflict of interest. Supported: Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried.	\$388,919	\$398,643	\$408,530
Fisheries Management Officer (inland recreational fisheries)	NSW DPI	The Fisheries Management Officer is responsible for day to day running of the inland fish stocking programs such as preparation of stocking plans, conducting site assessments, analysis of fish stocking data and facilitating hundreds of stocking permits each year as well as correspondence to stocking groups. Cameron Westaway declared a potential conflict of interest. Supported: Moved Peter Gibson, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried.	\$136,717	\$140,135	\$143,638
Gaden trout hatchery, operational expenditure	NSW DPI	To provide ongoing operational funding for the Gaden trout hatchery to ensure a continuation in the production and stocking of recreational trout / salmon species to enhance recreational fishing. Cameron Westaway declared a potential conflict of interest. Supported: Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Tom Williams, Carried.	\$668,266	\$684,973	\$702,097

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
6 inland fisheries officers	NSW DPI	Funding for 6 inland fisheries officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce fisheries rules and regulations including recreational fishing fee requirement across NSW inland areas. Supported: Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried. Future applications should include community feedback.	\$900,584	\$923,099	\$946,177

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fisheries Manager (Inland Angler Access)	NSW DPI	The Angler Access Manager position has the responsibility of managing all public access to waterways for inland NSW with stakeholders. The position is responsible for ensuring angler access is maintained at a high level to ensure that anglers can equitably share the states resources and have a variety of areas to fish. The position also oversees the concurrence role for land disposal across the state. Cameron Westaway declared a potential conflict of interest. Supported: Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried.	\$192,634	\$197,133	\$201,743
Fisheries Management Officer (Inland Angler Access)	NSW DPI	This position primarily focuses on addressing the high volume of Department of Industry Crown Lands road closures and securing angler access for the future. This position also assists in the inspection of access sites and maintenance of an angler access media. Cameron Westaway declared a potential conflict of interest. Supported: Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried.	\$148,307	\$151,625	\$155,025
Guyra Area Recreational Fishing Plan	Guyra Hotel Anglers Club Inc.	Our club wishes to prepare a 'Plan' of its local recreational fishing assets, supported by its community, to determine the clubs future direction for improving our local rec. fishing opportunities. Supported: Moved Steve Samuels, Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried. RFFTEC acknowledged the strategic forward planning approach by Council.	\$2,050	\$0	\$0
Small grants program freshwater	NSW DPI	Provides funding towards the development of on-ground recreational fishing facilities and other small, local or regional projects to enhance recreational fishing. Supported: Moved Max Graham, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried.	\$60,000	60,000	\$60,000

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation - Greater Murray NSW	NSW DPI	Provision of fish conservation management services for the Murray, lower Darling and Murrumbidgee catchments of NSW, to enhance key fish habitat protection and recreational fishery involvement in fish habitat protection and management. Supported: Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Kevin McKinnon, Carried.	\$211,392	\$215,927	\$220,574
Habitat Action Program - making more fish... naturally	NSW DPI	Engagement and support of recreational anglers in fish habitat actions and provision of devolved habitat action grants to enhance fish habitat in NSW and support healthy, resilient recreational fisheries. Supported. Incremental increase in grant funding for on-ground works noted. Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Debbie Lennon, Carried.	\$267,874	\$306,983	\$346,084
NSW Fishway Strategy for Fish Passage Remediation at Priority Barriers	NSW DPI	Development of a strategic 20-year statewide fishway infrastructure strategy to remediate the top 160 priority barriers to migrating fish to significantly improve native fish populations and recreational fishing opportunities. Supported: Moved Peter Gibson, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried.	\$349,788	\$357,512	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Building a stronger more sustainable freshwater recreational fishery in NSW	NSW DPI	This project builds on the long-term recreational fishing research program undertaken throughout the freshwater rivers and impoundments of NSW. The aim is to improve freshwater recreational fisheries in NSW which will result in increased economic, social and environmental benefits. Supported: Moved Peter Gibson, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried.	\$684,801	\$704,911	\$687,470
Pump Fishway Project: Phase 2 - Fish transfer	The University of New South Wales	The Pump Fishway innovation aims to transform fishways' performance and costs. Phase 1 proved the concept; Phase 2 seeks to transfer fish safely over 8m walls, ready for field implementation. Supported: Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Ron Croker, Carried.	\$88,601	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
2018 Disadvantaged community members engagement in sustainable recreational angling	Hunter Native Fish Incorporated	To educate and promote recreational fishing to members of the public with social, physical and / or intellectual difficulties using theory and practical workshops and supervised outings. Supported: Moved Steve Samuels, Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried.	\$4,050	\$0	\$0
Carp We Don't Keepit – Junior Angler Participation	OZfish Northwest	Ozfish Northwest sub – project in partnership with Lake Keepit Family Fishing Club and The Pub Angling Club aim to provide fun, attractive and age appropriate educational materials as a resources pack for junior participants at the Carp We Don't Keepit Carp Muster. Supported: Moved Peter Gibson, Seconded Ian Ward, Carried.	\$4,000	\$0	\$0
Fishing lures for responsible fisho's	NSW DPI	When conducting fisheries patrols Fisheries Officers will offer anglers fishing lures as a gift in instances where they are undertaking responsible fishing i.e. using an environet to retrieve legally hooked fish, referring to a fishing guide / brochure to check fishing rules, checking fish lengths with a measuring device, using proper fish handling, using circle hooks, effectively rigging a line, assisting others to fish, releasing fish responsibly, reporting illegal fishing via the fishers watch phone line etc. Supported: Moved Steve Samuels, Seconded Ron Croker, Carried. Conditional on being extended to inland NSW.	\$8,500	\$0	\$0
Supporting fish hatchery trainees	NSW DPI	Increase the number of fisheries students with practical skills learnt in a native fish hatchery. Improve the number and quality of fish produced at the Narrandera hatchery with the extra staff. Supported: Moved Steve Samuels, Seconded Kevin McKinnon, Carried.	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Fishcare – Volunteers and Education Officers proactively undertaking face to face education of anglers across NSW	NSW DPI	The NSW Fishcare Volunteer program is one of the flagship programs of the Recreational Fishing Trusts. It uses a network of five dedicated Education Officers and 250 motivated Fishcare Volunteers across NSW to provide face to face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground. Education Officers and Volunteers use targeted messaging to promote responsible and sustainable fishing ('fish for our future'). Fishcare is also instrumental in the running of the Get Hooked.. its fun to fish and fishing workshop programs involving thousands of kids and community members held each year. Our mission is to create a team of fishing stewards that champion, responsible fishing and a sustainable secure fishing future. Supported: Moved Steve Samuels, Seconded John Erskine, Carried.	\$170,000	\$172,500	\$175,000

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fishcare – Additional Education Officer, North Western NSW	NSW DPI	RFNSW has recommended NSW DPI apply for additional freshwater funding to facilitate a northern EO and new 'Perchy' trailer. The new position will be implemented into the western Fishcare team, which covers the area west of the great divide, and is currently facilitated by one EO, Brett Smith, located in Dubbo. In 2016/17, the region undertook 90 events. <i>Note: In Dec 2017, RFNSW identified the need to provide increased coverage of the Fishcare Program in north west NSW and recommended that DPI submits a funding application for an additional north-western Education Officer. It was also recommended that DPI facilitate a review of the Fishcare Program, including why additional education resources may be needed on the inland. Review report included with agenda package.</i> Supported: Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Max Graham, Carried.	\$135,000	\$141,000	\$143,000
Get Hooked...it's fun to fish – providing a fun, interactive recreational fishing program for school students to learn about sustainable fishing	NSW DPI	Get Hooked is a proactive kid's recreational fishing program aligned to the NSW Curriculum. Our mission is to reach out to students and teachers through fun and interactive fishing programs. We aim to teach kids the importance of sustainability, healthy aquatic life for fish stocks, catch and release skills and safe and responsible fishing behaviours. The basics are taught to equip students for the future. Passionate dedicated Fishcare Volunteers, Trust education officers and teachers run Get hooked class lessons with interactive fishing resource kits provided to schools. Once class lessons are completed, education officers and Fishcare Volunteers run practical fishing workshops for thousands of school students annually to put their new skills into practice. Supported: Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried. Suggested proposed Get Hooked app to be potentially included in FishSmart app.	\$53,800	\$54,840	\$55,500
NSW Fishing Workshops – Fostering new and existing fishers to be the guardians of tomorrow	NSW DPI	Fishing workshops teach responsible fishing practices to children and the community throughout NSW, providing an enjoyable educational experience that aims to teach the basics of fishing to a newcomer giving them the skills to continue in the sport. Our mission is to create the fishing steward's and champions of tomorrow with over 8,000 new entrants introduced to fishing last year. Supported: Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Kevin McKinnon, Carried.	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
NSW Saltwater and Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guides - One stop shop for essential fishing info	NSW DPI	These guides provide an easy to read summary of essential information fishers need before they go fishing. This includes fishing rules, gear descriptions, licences and Recreational Fishing Trusts, sustainable fishing practices and much more. It is proposed to decrease production of the guide by one third to 200,000 per year noting increasing use of electronic media. Nevertheless, the guides still represent a one stop shop for anglers in on publication to access their fishing information. It is especially popular with new or beginner fishers. Supported: Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried.	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Recreational fishing information – enhancing information to fishers	NSW DPI	This project involves boosting production and distribution of recreational fishing information to fishers above and beyond what is provided by DPI to promote sustainable fishing and participation. This includes print media such as signage, brochures, social media videos and infomercials while continuing to produce and distribute traditional products such as brochures, signs, guides and the long standing but highly popular sticky measuring ruler. This project will be guided by the recreational fishing branding communication plan project (in development). Supported: Moved Steve Samuels, Seconded Tom Williams, Carried.	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Servicing our fishers to help ensure our fishing future: Responsible recreational fishing and effective management of fishing competitions	NSW DPI	This citizen program is all about promoting best recreational fishing practice and competition management techniques based on current science and recreational fishing know-how. The project works with novice to keen anglers, fishing clubs and competition (event) organisers to inform and educate best fishing and handling techniques and drive change in behaviour to increase fisheries performance. It works to maintain our social licence for recreational fishing by minimising the environmental impacts of fishing whilst maintaining the positive socio-economic benefits of these events for regional communities who depend on them. Supported: Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried. DPI to include Snowy Mountains Trout Festival in the program.	\$36,770	\$37,890	\$38,850

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fisheries Manager (inland recreational fisheries)	NSW DPI	The position assists with freshwater legislative review, advisory and policy development. The position co-ordinates the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee, Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Advisory Committee and freshwater recreational grants funded from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust. The position assists in the management of the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program, enhanced fish production program and Gaden trout hatchery operational program. Cameron Westaway declared a potential conflict of interest. Supported: Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.	\$187,328	\$192,011	\$196,811
RFFTEC meeting expenses	NSW DPI	To hold regular meetings of the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) in order to review trust fund applications and make recommendations to RFNSW Advisory Council and the Minister for Primary Industries on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust. Supported: Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Ian Ward, Carried.	\$33,800	\$34,600	\$35,500
Recreational Fishing Infrastructure Co-ordination – Enhancing The Shore-based Fishing Experience For Coastal and Inland Fishers	NSW DPI	To target stakeholder identified gaps in fishing infrastructure in NSW, including fish cleaning facilities and accessible fishing platforms. To provide support to the Trust Executive Officer for financial and auditing management of Trust programs to ensure timely and quality service delivery. The role provides quality advice to the public on all Trust enquiries and application development. Supported: Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.	\$16,059	\$16,533	\$17,732
Recreational Fisher Research Database	NSW DPI	This project involves data entry of 1 and 3 year fishing fee receipt holders by an external consultant onto the Recreational Angling database for research and management purposes. This includes data validation and duplication checks of the database. Supported: Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.	\$21,000	\$19,500	\$18,000
Recreational fishing fee awareness program	NSW DPI	This project seeks to raise awareness amongst the recreational fishing sector of the need for a fishing licence and where licence fees go by using advertising in key fishing magazines, signage, social media and other initiatives (to be identified in the recreational fishing communications plan). Supported for 2018/19 only: Moved Steve Samuels, Seconded Ron Croker, Carried.	\$15,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Recreational Fishing Fee Renewal Notice System	NSW DPI	Involves an efficient licence renewal notice system to encourage recreational fishers to renew their fee when it expires. The notice gets sent out to around 250,000 licence holders per year. Supported: Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.	\$36,850	\$36,850	\$36,850
Recreational Fishing Licensing (Fee) project	NSW DPI	This project provides for the safe and secure collection of recreational fishing licences fees (public money) which are deposited into the Recreational Fishing Trusts on a daily basis. It provides a convenient payment network for anglers using a variety of methods such as a dedicated webpage, sales agents (fishing tackle stores etc) throughout NSW, BPAY, automated telephone, EFTPOS terminals and even mail. It caters for all types of anglers. There is 1) an electronic sales platform run by the OneGov - Government Licensing Service (GLS) and 2) a manual payment system of agents run by DPI. Supported excluding GLS funding in 2019/20 and 2020/21: Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.	\$649,470	\$447,450	\$453,990
Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) consultation and meeting expenses	NSW DPI	RFNSW advises the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishery policy issues including maintaining and improving the quality of recreational fishing opportunities. Supported: Moved Peter Gibson, Seconded Max Graham, Carried.	\$26,700	\$27,100	\$27,500

Table 2 - Projects NOT SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Buckingbong Reserve Improvement	Narrandera Fishing Club	Erect shelter for fishers and campers for safe and hygiene preparation of food etc. Not supported: Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Kevin McKinnon, Carried. Not fisheries specific. Limited benefit to fishers.	\$9,400	\$0	\$0
Dumaresq Dam Fishing/Canoe Jetty	Armidale Regional Council	Armidale Regional Council is seeking partial funding for a fishing/canoe jetty at Dumaresq Dam, which in combination with a bass stocking program and increasing canoe fishing will improve rec. fishing. Not supported: Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Kevin McKinnon, Carried. Lack of detail on kayak versus land based fishing access and budget details on platform construction. DPI Infrastructure Manager to liaise with applicant to address issues and resubmit.	\$80,000	\$0	\$0
Tocumwal Foreshore Fishing/Viewing Platforms	Berrigan Shire Council	This project involves the redevelopment of the Murray River Foreshore at Tocumwal where improved access and facilities will encourage the use of this high profile facility for recreational fishers. Not supported: Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Debbie Lennon, Carried. RFFTEC acknowledges the need for additional fishing platforms. Lack of detail in budget, including contributing funding from Council. DPI Infrastructure Manager to liaise with Council to address applications issues and resubmit.	\$286,800	\$0	\$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Breathing Life into the Murray	Nyah Nyah West United Football and Netball Club – Fishing Committee	Providing aeration of waters upstream from the Nyah Boat Ramp to help improve the natural ecosystem in times of high stress such as black water events. Not supported: Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried. Project objective has merit, however RFFTEC was concerned about the effectiveness of the proposed aerator methodology. More technical information needed on potential effectiveness in future black water events. There is also the issue of ongoing management of an asset on private land.	\$8,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Driving Fish Habitat Action with a Landcare NSW partnership	OzFish Unlimited	Funding support for 2 OzFish staff which will establish a platform of 45 fish habitat focused groups to deliver fish habitat rehabilitation works in over 60 locations using the resources of recreational fishers and Landcarers across NSW. Not supported: Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Ian Ward, Carried. Project has merit however RFFTEC would prefer to support additional on-grounds works projects sourced by OzFish.	\$120,250	\$120,250	\$120,000

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Gone Fishing Trout style	Redoubt Pty Ltd T/A Eucumbene Trout Farm	Proposed is a fishing for trout open day at Eucumbene Trout Farm to coincide with the "Gone Fishing" day held throughout NSW. Not supported: Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Ian Ward, Carried. Recommended that an application be made under the Gone Fishing Day grants.	\$4,000	\$0	\$0
Fisherman's Mate	ABKaus PTY Ltd	Fisherman's Mate will be the most comprehensive mobile application for the fishing and boating enthusiast. The mobile application provides validated list of Fishing Spots, Boat Ramps, Marina and Fishing Shops. Other features include fishing and boating safety, user education, trip planner, brag wall, leaderboard, comments and likes. Not supported: RFFTEC Moved Peter Gibson, Seconded Debbie Lennon, Carried. Considered to be a commercial venture.	\$16,800	\$0	\$0
The Fly Program Ltd. 'Men In Flight Program'	The Fly Program Ltd.	The purpose of The Fly Program's Men In Flight program is to raise awareness and facilitate engaging programs that address depression, Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicide in the Australian male community, focusing on education and peer support found in environments found in nature and recreational fishing. Not supported: Moved Steve Samuels, Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried. RFFTEC was concerned about the very high participant cost and lack of funding from other sources e.g. NSW Health.	\$26,100	\$0	\$0