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| MEETING | Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) |
| MEETING NO. | Meeting 57 |
| DATE | 4 July 2018 |
| LOCATION | St George Rowers Club, 1 Levey Street, Wolli Creek |
| ATTENDEES | Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Ron Butler (Region 2), Ron Croker (Region 3), Ian Ward (Region 4), Tom Williams (Region 5), Debbie Lennon (Region 6), John Erskine (Region 7), Peter Gibson (NSW CFA), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI) |
| APOLOGIES | Steve Samuels (RF NSW), Max Graham (Region 1), 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 56th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting Moved Tom Williams, Seconded Ron Croker, Carried.

3. Register of interests

Members reviewed the register and provided updated details as required.

4. Action items from previous meeting

No action items recorded from previous meeting.

5. Recreational Fishing Trust update

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members.

6. Review of Freshwater Trust grant applications

A total of 4 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).

7. Presentations

a) Recreational fishing licensing – DPI provided an update on the licence sales agent network and statistics on licence sales.

b) Fish Stocking – DPI presented the native fish stocking plan. It was noted that no inland commercial hatcheries applied to supply native fish for the Dollar for Dollar program. Additional fish can be supplied from the Narrandera Fisheries Centre as an alternative, with additional capital investment for ponds and tank infrastructure and additional staff resourcing. If the Dollar for Dollar scheme does not continue, stocking sites could be prioritised by river reach to provide the most effective results. Matching funds may not be sought from fishing clubs, however clubs could be encouraged to participate in fish releases. Research into the levels of natural recruitment in inland rivers is planned over the longer term, and stocking should be focussed on lower repopulation areas.

RFFTEC supported continuation of the Dollar for Dollar program funding for coastal fishing clubs / hatcheries producing Australian bass and volunteer clubs / hatcheries producing inland species. The committee supported a project variation for remaining project funds to the Narrandera Fisheries Centre

for operational costs to produce and supply additional Golden Perch and Murray Cod. RFFTEC supported the appointment of casual fisheries technicians using remaining project funds to assist with fish breeding and transport / stocking of fish. The committee also provided in-principle support for funding of additional infrastructure at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre, to increase fish production capacity, pending submission of detailed plans and costings. Moved Peter Gibson, Seconded John Erskine.

c) Fuel card grants – The fuel cards assessment panel will meet later this month to review the allocation of fuel card vouchers to groups which undertake fish stocking and habitat rehabilitation.

d) Get Hooked...its fun to fish schools education program and Gone Fishing Day 2018 – DPI advised up to 5,000 students across NSW participate in the program annually. A total of 47 schools are registered for the Get Hooked...its fun to fish program in inland NSW in 2018. Preparations for the upcoming Gone Fishing Day community fishing events on 14 October 2018 at Forbes and Queanbeyan are underway.

f) Risk assessment of recreational fishing opportunities in Sydney impoundments – DPI advised site inspections and a risk assessment workshop will be carried out this month.

g) Update on tournament management program – DPI discussed “cod for cash”; brag mats; promotion of circle hook and barotrauma and use of release weights. Examples of competitions using catch, photo and release formats were provided.

8. General business

DPI advised a report on the trout strategy workshops is being prepared. The community survey has been published on-line to enable further input. A draft trout strategy will then be prepared based on feedback from the workshops and community survey. The final report for the Turon River native fish survey was distributed to committee members. Max Graham and Kevin McKinnon were nominated as the RFFTEC representatives to attend the 2018 Fishers for Fish Habitat Forum in Ballina on the 24 and 25 August, 2018.

9. Next meeting

8 November 2018, L P Dutton trout hatchery, Ebor

Action items from this meeting

| Action | Status |
|--|---|
| That DPI Research is invited to the next committee meeting to provide a freshwater research program update. | Completed |
| Circulate the tournament management program presentation to members. | Completed |
| Refer the "Albury Scouting" application to the "Gone Fishing Day" funding round. The inland Education Officer to contact the applicant to organise a future fishing event. | Completed |
| DPI to prepare a funding application for additional infrastructure at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre. Application to include detailed plans and costings for ponds, plumbing, earthworks etc. for consideration out-of-session. | Completed |
| Kevin McKinnon and Max Graham are invited to attend the Fishers for Fish Habitat Forum in Ballina on 24th and 25th of August 2018. | Completed, Kevin to attend the forum |
| Circulate the google drive link of Trust project reports to committee members. | Underway |
| Write a letter of acknowledgement to Les Rava, retiring manager at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre, for service and achievements to improve / enhance recreational fisheries in inland NSW over many years. | Completed |
| Discuss the feasibility of opening the Narrandera Fisheries Centre tourist centre on weekends with the site manager, to increase visitation to the facility. | Discussed with the tourist centre manager however not considered viable at this stage |

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 |
|--|--------------|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Investigations of nodavirus infection in aquaculture reared Australian bass – dollar for dollar (\$ 4 \$) hatcheries | NSW DPI | Testing of Australian bass, estuary perch and other euryhaline finfish produced at marine \$4\$ commercial hatcheries for the purposes of public fish stocking into NSW impoundments provides an ability to ensure only nodavirus free fish are stocked into freshwater NSW impoundments. SUPPORTED Moved Ian Ward Seconded Ron Croker, Carried. Supported as a 3 year ongoing program noting testing is an ongoing requirement. | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

| Project Title | Organisation | Project Summary | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
|--|---------------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Install fish cleaning tables for Lake Glenbawn anglers | Reflections Holiday Parks | Install 2x fish cleaning tables (1 at each boat ramp) at Lake Glenbawn for public use. SUPPORTED Moved Peter Gibson Seconded Ron Butler, Carried. | \$9,725 | | |

Projects **NOT SUPPORTED** for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Recreational fishing education

| Project Title | Organisation | Project Summary | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|------------|---------|---------|
| Albury Scouting | 2 nd Albury Scouts | Scouting is a group that encourages exploration of the outdoors and part of that is fishing. SUPPORTED REFERRAL Moved Ron Butler Seconded John Erskine, Carried. Application to be referred to the Gone Fishing Day grant funding round and for the inland EO to contact the applicant to organise a fishing event. | \$1,647.50 | | |

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

| Project Title | Organisation | Project Summary | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
|--|--------------------------|--|----------|---------|---------|
| DNA and diet of stuffed trophy Murray cod and museum specimens | Charles Sturt University | This multidisciplinary project will evaluate the feasibility of extracting viable DNA and trophic level (amino acid-specific stable isotope) information from stuffed trophy Murray cod and museum preserved specimens. NOT SUPPORTED Moved Debbie Lennon Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried. Considered to be a low priority for funding at this time. Trust funds have previously been allocated to other projects which are investigating the recruitment of Murray Cod in relation to recreational fishing and stocking. | \$40,880 | | |