

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)		
MEETING NO.	Meeting 52	DATE	17 November 2016
LOCATION	Mercure Sydney International Airport 22 Levey Street, Wollri Creek	TIME	9:00 am –2:15 pm
ATTENDEES	Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Ron Butler (Region 2), Ron Croker (Region 3), Ian Ward (Region 4), Tom Williams (Region 5), Debbie Lennon (Region 6), Richard Ping Kee (Region 7), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8), Bryan van der Walt for Peter Turnell.		

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 51st RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Ron Croker.

3. Action items from previous meeting

The Committee noted the progress on action items from the previous meeting (Table 1).

4. Status of the Freshwater Trust

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented. There have been no new expenditure or changes to the budget since the last meeting.

5. Gone Fishing Day presentation

DPI provided an update to the committee on the outcomes of the successful Gone Fishing Day event on 16 October 2016. Major outcomes are summarised below:

6 major events snapshot

- Highly accessible locations chosen in the middle of town/city at Botany Bay, Port Macquarie, Lake Illawarra, Dubbo, Wagga and Newcastle to promote attendance
- Wide range of fun fishing activities to create a festival type atmosphere which could occupy a family for a couple of hours with activities for new entrants to the sport but also experienced fishers
- Many partnerships with various organisations to promote lots of different activities
- Over 15,000 people estimated to have attended the 6 locations.
- No recreational fishing licence required in NSW on Gone Fishing Day.
- Over 50 Fishcare Volunteers involved on the Day.
- Most popular activities were fishing workshops (over subscribed), cooking & filleting demonstration, fishing expert talks, giveaways (goodie bags), compliance boat stands, casting comp, touch tank and fishing tips area.

Club events snapshot

- 37 grants (up to \$2,000) provided from the Recreational Fishing Trusts to fishing clubs and organisations to run community fishing events and activities on Gone Fishing day.
- The size of events varied with an average of 110 people per club event.

- Most clubs held fishing workshops, barbeques, casting demonstrations, prize giveaways etc.
- More lead in time required for clubs to get involved noting limiting resource capacity and experience of some clubs.
- More flexibility with grants to be considered next year for fishing club events (multiple days, flexible dates).

6. Review of new Freshwater Trust applications

The committee reviewed new Freshwater Trust grant applications. Meeting recommendations are provided in Tables 2 and 3. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration.

7. Fish habitat grants

RFFTEC received updates on the Fish Habitat Network program and previously funded freshwater habitat grants. The technical assessment panel (TAP) recently met to assess 17 new freshwater habitat grant applications. Meeting recommendations are provided in Tables 4 and 5. Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Richard Ping Kee.

A total of \$7,000 in funds unspent or carried over from previous rounds was re-allocated towards a project funded in 2015/16 (Bourke's Catchin' Fish Again Re-snagging Project, Bourke's Aint Caught Nuffin Fishing Club Inc,) for further re snagging along the Darling River below Bourke Weir. The balance remaining (\$11,802) will be carried over until the next round or until a suitable project arises. Moved Kevin McKinnon Seconded Ron Butler.

8. Project presentations

RFFTEC received updates on the following projects: freshwater angler access program; recreational fisheries education (incorporating "Fishcare", "Get hooked it's fun to fish" and "fishing workshops") and Murray crayfish research. It was noted that the Murray Crayfish population in Blowering Dam has not recovered sufficiently at this time to warrant a re-evaluation of the Murray Crayfish fishing closure.

9. General business

RFFTEC discussed the following issues: monitoring of freshwater catfish within the Gwydir River; effect of a seasonal fishing closure between Yarrawonga to Tocumwal on fishers in the Lower Murray region and examination of feasibility of electronic fishing licences. It was noted that Mr Richard Ping Kee (Region 7) is attending his final expenditure committee meeting and the chair congratulated Mr Ping Kee on his longstanding contribution on RFFTEC and outstanding representation of anglers in his local region. He will be sorely missed.

10. Next meeting

Thursday 11 May 2017

Table 1: Action items

Previous meeting

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

This meeting

Item	Issue	Action
1.	That DPI circulates the Gone Fishing Day report	Completed
2.	That the effect of the recreational fishing closure from Yarrawonga Weir to Tocumwal road bridge be referred to the Recreational Fishing NSW advisory council.	Completed
3.	That a letter of appreciation be written to Richard Ping Kee for longstanding representation on RFFTEC.	Completed
4.	That DPI circulates the results of freshwater catfish tagging / monitoring within the Gwydir River and investigates the feasibility of a freshwater catfish trial research stocking within the Gwydir River, in consultation with the Research Scientist	Upon completion of research and pending research outcomes

Table 2: New Trust Project Applications supported by RFFTEC

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p>Assessing the interactions of threatened frog species and trout in the Central Tablelands of NSW To evaluate the distribution of threatened frogs in the Turon River catchment relative to available habitat and trout-stocking, including the relative abundance of threatened frogs in areas where fish stocking occurs versus non-stocked areas. SUPPORTED Moved Tom Williams, Seconded Ron Croker. Will increase knowledge of interactions between stocked fish and amphibian species within the central tablelands region.</p>	OEH	\$10,000	\$0
<p>Monitoring Murray cod populations in the Dumaresq River, northern NSW Undertake two tag-and-recapture events in the Dumaresq River; one each in March-April 2017 and 2018. SUPPORTED Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Richard Ping Kee. Will strengthen estimates of population size and structure of Murray cod populations across the region.</p>	Glenlyon Dam Fish Restocking Group Inc.	\$10,000	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p>Talmalmo - survey of legal access To formally identify the location of an important unidentified public road by having the road surveyed, signposted and a new gate installed allowing angler's access to the Murray River. This road leads angler to an area of over 500m of public land, which can be used by anglers. Alistair McBurnie declared a potential conflict of interest. SUPPORTED Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Tom Williams. Will provide easy and identifiable access to the Murray River in an area that is currently underutilised.</p>	South West Anglers Association	\$4,800	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
Eucumbene River – Vehicle Management Project To manage vehicle access to the Eucumbene River at the Denison campground area. The project will construct a car park, install a gate and bollards and erect advisory signage to prevent vehicles from entering the lake bed, while still maintaining access for recreational fishers. Cameron Westaway and Alistair McBurnie declared a potential conflict of interest and were absent from the meeting during voting. SUPPORTED Moved Richard Ping Kee, Seconded Ron Butler. Will assist with the management of vehicle access, to reduce congestion along the Eucumbene River foreshore and protect shoreline vegetation.	Snowy Hydro Pty Ltd	\$44,295	\$0

Platform: Recreational Fishing Education

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
Go Fishing NSW Day 2017 To run the third NSW Fishing Day on the 15 October 2017 at popular fishing locations across NSW, as part of the national “Gone Fishing Day” run by Australian Fishing Trade Association. The fishing event will promote and increase the profile of recreational fishing within the community. Includes a grants program for fishing clubs (\$120,000). Bryan van der Walt and Cameron Westaway declared a potential conflict of interest. SUPPORTED Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Ron Butler. Will increase participation in recreational fishing across the State with associated social / economic benefits.	DPI	\$240,000 (SW) \$60,000 (FW)	\$0

Table 3: New Trust Project Applications not supported by RFFTEC

Platform: Recreational Fishing Education

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p>Coarse fishing infrastructure – fishing platform creation To construct 10 pole fishing platforms (“pegs”) around a private lake off Argyle Reach Road, Wilderforce. Fishing access to the lake for Match Fishing” is provided with permission via the Sydney Coarse Angling Club Inc. NOT SUPPORTED Moved Kevin McKinnon Secoded Richard Ping Kee. The freshwater lake is located on private property which does not provide general recreational fishing access.</p>	Sydney Coarse Angling Club Inc.	\$2,875	\$0

Table 4: New Fish Habitat Grant Applications supported by RFFTEC

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p>Upper Castlereagh River exotic vegetation removal To improve native fish habitat by controlling willows, honey locusts, privet and other tree weed species growing adjacent to the upper Castlereagh River near Coonabarabran.</p>	Coonabarabran Landcare Inc.	\$8,350	\$0
<p>Lining the banks of the Buckinbah Riparian tree planting in Crownland, focusing on reintroducing understorey tree species to the toe of the bank in the Buckinbah Creek, Yeoval.</p>	Little River Landcare	\$8,311	\$0
<p>Invasive weed control & habitat restoration on the Peel River Undertake weed control and habitat restoration along a 1.5km stretch of bank of the Peel River, Tamworth.</p>	Tamworth Regional Landcare Association	\$39,800	\$0
<p>Cudgegong River weed control and native grass rehabilitation Removal of noxious and woody weeds along a 1km stretch of the bank of the Cudgegong River, Mudgee.</p>	Mid-Western Regional Council	\$27,500	\$0
<p>Recovery of the Mac, stage 1 Removal / realignment of 2 weirs, removal of willows and native tree replanting along a 2km stretch of the Macquarie River, Bathurst.</p>	Sofala Branch of CAS	\$27,962	\$0
<p>Habitat restoration in the Numeralla River through the re-introduction of large woody debris Installation of 2 snags, removal of noxious weeds and revegetation along a 200m stretch of the Numeralla River, Numeralla.</p>	Numeralla Landcare	\$22,625	\$0
<p>Duckmaloi River bankside rehabilitation Removal of noxious weed species and native tree replanting along a 1km stretch of the Duckmaloi River on private property, Oberon.</p>	Malcolm Shackell (private)	\$1,500	\$0

Table 5: New Fish Habitat Grant Applications not supported by RFFTEC

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
Stage 2 Adelong Creek fish habitat enhancement project Removal of wood weeds, prevention of stock access and bank stabilisation, Adelong Creek.	Riverina Highlands Landcare Network Inc.	\$28,250	\$0
Lower Darling River riparian rehabilitation – Tandou Station To install off-stream watering points and erect 30km of riparian fencing along the Darling River bank, Tandou Station to prevent erosion from stock grazing.	Western LLS	\$40,000	\$0
Murray River Tocumwal foreshore habitat improvement Removal of willows and construction of piled habitat structures along a 250m stretch of the bank of the Murray River, Tocumwal.	Berrigan Shire Council	\$40,000	\$0
Bringing back fish to the lower Bogan Undertake 8km of riparian rehabilitation along the bank of the Bogan River at properties “Branglebar” and “Mulgawarrina” and revise fishway plans for Nidgery Weir, Gongolgon.	Nidgery Weir Trust	\$28,800	\$0
Responsible Custodians - We cannot repair the damage but we can remediate and rehabilitate to prevent further deterioration Removal of willows and noxious woody weeds, replanting of native tree species and introduction of snags and rock fillets along a 5km reach of Cooksvale Creek at Cooksvale Station, Peelwood.	Brian and Narelle Bulmer (private)	\$40,000	\$0
Summer Hill Creek restoration Restoration of riparian habitat along 500m of Summer Hill Creek, Orange by removing willows, undertaking native plant revegetation and installing stock exclusion fencing.	Conservation Volunteers Australia	\$39,650	\$0
Upper Bidgee River rehab Riparian revegetation along a 6km stretch of the upper Murrumbidgee River between Bredbo and Colinton Gorge.	Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers Australia	\$18,500	\$0
Belubula Fishing Park Stage 1 Removal of noxious plants and weed species, introduction of 10 snags, erection of fencing and replanting of native trees along a 500m stretch of the Belubula River, Blayney.	Blayney Shire Council	\$28,500	\$0

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
Wattle Creek Headwaters To prevent further head cut erosion of a 100m stretch of Wattle Creek, through bank battering, rock placement, revegetation and fencing on private property, Grabben Gullen.	Jennifer Hewitt (private)	\$9,000	\$0
Namoi River bank stabilisation Cohens Bridge Rehabilitate and stabilise the Namoi River bank on either side of Cohens Bridge, Gunnedah.	Gunnedah Shire Council	\$2,000	\$0