



MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)
MEETING NO.	Meeting 54
DATE & TIME	17 August 2017, 9am – 3pm
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), Peter Gibson (CFA), Steve Samuels (RFNSW), Cameron Westaway (DPI), Bryan van der Walt (DPI), Craig Watson (DPI), Iain Ellis (DPI)
APOLOGIES	Peter Turnell (DPI)

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 54th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting (Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried).

3. Action items from previous meeting

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

4. Recreational Fishing Trust update

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members.

5. Review of new Freshwater Trust grant applications

A total of 5 freshwater applications were received. Expenditure recommendations are provided in Tables 3 to 5. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration.

6. Presentations and project updates

RFFTEC received updates on the following projects: fish habitat and environmental flows; recreational fish stocking; recreational fishing rules signage; "Gone Fishing Day" event preparations - advisory field day to be held on 15/8/17; communication plan for promotion of Recreational Fishing Trust initiatives; and development of stakeholder research priorities.

DPI provided an update on the fishing infrastructure program and highlighted that 192 infrastructure projects had received funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts over the years. These projects were typically undertaken by local councils and other community organisations. It was noted that one Council had recently requested consideration of funding for ongoing maintenance of infrastructure given many councils have considerable maintenance responsibilities for boating and fishing related infrastructure as well as many other assets. DPI advised the Trust application guidelines currently stipulate that projects will not receive favourable consideration for ongoing maintenance and that projects should represent value for money by incorporating other contributing funding or 'in-kind' contribution by the applicant. RFFTEC recommended that this policy should be retained although funding should be considered for footpaths to platforms and landscaping around facilities (once large machinery has left the site) as these were viewed as legitimate construction costs.

7. General business

RFFTEC discussed the following issues:

Ron Croker noted that angling groups may be able to assist with installation of recreational fishing rules signs at key fishing locations and offered assistance from the Southern Bass Fishing Club to install local signage. DPI advised it would refer the offer to the Fisheries Compliance Unit for consideration.

John Erskine noted that when calling the Fishers' Watch phonenumber it is difficult to identify the fisheries zone in which the alleged fisheries offence is occurring. DPI advised it would refer the offer to the Fisheries Compliance Unit for consideration.

Cameron Westaway noted that a request for quote process to undertake a risk assessment of recreational fishing opportunities in Sydney dams fishing had been undertaken. It was noted that fishing in Sydney impoundments would provide significant economic and social benefits to the community.

DPI advised a communication plan is being prepared for a soft launch of the angler access website. DPI will consult with Crown Lands and LLS prior to initiating the angler access website.

DPI advised a tender process is planned for delivery of independent representation services for the NSW recreational fishing sector.

A number of Recreational Fishing Trust funding proposals have recently been received regarding the therapeutic benefits of fishing to address mental health and social well-being. Peter Gibson suggested an approach could be made to the Minister for Health to investigate co-funding opportunities for fishing related projects that benefit mental health issues within the community.

A letter has been received from Searle Aquaculture regarding the commercial supply of Jungle Perch for recreational fishing. The preliminary proposal to breed and stock Jungle Perch in northern NSW was not supported at this stage. DPI will review the history and status of the Jungle Perch fishery in NSW noting that any existing populations in NSW e.g. within the Brunswick or Tweed catchments, may have originated and have been translocated from northern Queensland.

8. Next meeting

Thursday 16 November 2017

9. Action items

Action	Status
That a sub-committee be established to facilitate the development of a communication plan to promote trust programs / initiatives and recreational fishing values. Steve Samuels and Peter Gibson were nominated as sub-committee representatives.	Underway. Progress of communication plan to be discussed at the next RFFTEC meeting.
Alan Hansard, ARRF Managing Director to provide regional and national development and extension priorities for recreational fishing research and a list of recently funded FRDC projects.	Pending.
Angling groups may be able to assist with installation of recreational fisheries rules signs at key fishing locations.	Completed. Referred to the fisheries compliance unit for consideration.
Fishers Watch phonenumber – the message which asks for fishers to identify the fisheries zone in which the alleged fishing offence has occurred is confusing.	Completed. Referred to the fisheries compliance unit for consideration.
That the Chair of RFFTEC write a letter to the chair of RFNSW requesting consideration of an approach being made to the Minister for Health to investigate co-funding opportunities for fishing related projects that benefit mental health issues within the community.	Pending.
Amend the Recreational Fishing Trust funding guidelines to permit funding for footpaths and landscaping around recreational fisheries infrastructure, to facilitate disabled access to/from angling facilities.	Pending.

Action	Status
Letter of reply to Searle aquaculture advising that the preliminary proposal for Jungle Perch breeding and stocking is not supported, as it is uncertain as to whether local populations were originally translocated and whether or not stocking would provide good recreational fishing opportunities in impoundments.	Pending.
Refer the "Boys to the Bush" funding application to the inland education officer and fishing competition manager to provide a fishing workshop opportunity and competition advisory material.	Completed.