

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)		
MEETING NO.	Meeting 63	DATE	8 December 2020
LOCATION	Novotel Sydney International Airport, 22 Levey Street, Wollri Creek. Videoconference (Zoom)	TIME	9:00am – 4:00pm
INVITEES	Bruce Schumacher AM (Chair), Max Graham (Region 1), Ron Butler (Region 2), Ron Croker (Region 3), Michael Davey (Region 4), Paul Mullen (Region 5), Debbie Lennon (Region 6), John Erskine (Region 7), Troy Bright (Region 8), Peter Johnson (NSW Rod Fishers' Society), Karl Mathers (RFNSW), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI).		

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Nil.

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 62nd RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Peter Johnson, Carried.

4. Action items from previous meeting

The progress of action items from the previous meeting was noted.

5. Recreational Fishing Trust items

a) Status of the Freshwater Trust

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members. Statistics and trends of licence sales for the various licence types were discussed.

b) Development of the next Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan

The current 2018/19-2020/21 Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan finishes on 30 June 2021. It is proposed to develop a new 3 year Investment Plan commencing 1 July 2021.

c) Review of new Freshwater grant applications

A total of 57 Freshwater Trust grant applications were received following a widely advertised call for applications released in September 2020. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration prior to submission to the Minister for approval.

d) Implementation of Citizen Science project variation

The Leeton Bidgee Classic was not a registered entity with Fair Trading when this application was submitted by OzFish Unlimited and approved for funding in RFFTEC meeting 61. Leeton Bidgee Classic has since met the requirements to receive Trust funding and requested to take responsibility of the project. The Committee supported a project variation for a change of project manager from OzFish to Leeton Bidgee Classic for ongoing management of the project. Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Peter Johnson, Carried.

e) Appointment of RFFTEC representative on Technical Advisory Group for the Driving Fish Habitat Action with a Landcare NSW/OzFish Unlimited community partnership – Years 2 and 3 project

The Committee nominated Max Graham to represent RFFTEC on the Technical Advisory Group to meet at least every six months or as needed to discuss planning and progress of the Landcare/OzFish community partnership project.

f) Habitat Action Grants recommendations

A total of 13 freshwater Habitat Action Grant (HAG) applications were received following the 2020/21 annual call for applications. A summary of the Technical Assessment Panel's (TAP) recommendations of projects suitable for funding was provided to committee members.

Due to efficiency savings in the operational budget in 2020/21, the TAP recommended that \$20,520 from the operational budget in 2020/21 be utilised for Habitat Action grants in 2020/21. Eleven projects with a total value of \$270,520 were recommended for funding.

Recommendations were provided to members for consideration and supported out of session.