

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) meeting OUTCOMES

Meeting Number: 66 **Date:** 3 February 2022 **Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am
Location: Videoconference (Zoom)
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.

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Peter Turnell

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 65th RFFTEC meeting on 4 August 2021 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved John Erskine, Seconded Ron Butler, 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 financial status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members. Statistics and trends of licence sales for the various licence types were discussed.

b. Review of new Freshwater grant applications

A total of 21 Freshwater Trust grant applications were received following a widely advertised call for applications released in October 2021. 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 (see Table 1 & 2).

6. General business

DPI advised Dr Matt Gordos is investigating the status of the fish lift at Tallowa Dam and will provide an update to RFFTEC once further information is available.

Table 1. Summary of new Freshwater Trust grant applications SUPPORTED for funding by RFFTEC

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement program

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Stocking of Estuary Perch within Brogo Dam and to investigate stocking Estuary Perch within Danjera Dam, Glennies Creek and Lake Toolooma	NSW DPI	The aim of this project is to continue to stock up to 20,000 Estuary Perch fingerlings within Brogo Dam and to investigate the potential release of a further 20,000 Estuary Perch into Danjera Dam (Nowra), Glennies Creek Dam (Singleton) and Lake Toolooma (Waterfall), to provide anglers with exciting new high quality recreational fishing opportunities. SUPPORTED Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Peter Johnson, Carried.		FW \$25,000	FW \$50,000
Review and update the NSW trout strategy and design a framework for the development of management strategies for other key NSW freshwater sportfish	NSW DPI	To review structure, content and progress of the existing NSW trout strategy framework and develop a new five-year trout strategy including recommendations relating to research, stocking strategies, management action, enhancement and promotional opportunities for the NSW recreational trout fishery. The review and development of the trout strategy will be used as a framework to develop a Murray cod species management strategy. The Murray cod and trout strategies will inform the future development of similar management initiatives for other key species including golden perch and Australian bass. SUPPORTED Moved: Michael Davey, Seconded: Troy Bright, Carried. Karl Mathers declared a potential conflict of interest with potential involvement in tenders if advertised in the future and was excluded from the project assessment discussion.		FW \$50,000	FW \$67,000

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Kyffins Reserve Boat Ramp Project (KRBRP)	Federation Council	To construct a concrete single boat ramp to replace the current sand ramp at Kyffins Reserve. This will not only allow for greater attraction of recreational fishing users, but also ensure greater accessibility for those attempting to access the site using a wheelchair. SUPPORTED Moved: Karl Mathers, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried.		FW \$80,000	
Lake Burrendong recreational fishing boat ramp upgrade	Reflections Holiday Parks	The Lake Burrendong concrete boat ramp used by thousands of inland recreational fishers is narrow, aged and desperately in need of improvement. It is proposed to widen the existing boat ramp to make more user friendly while improving safety. SUPPORTED Moved: Peter Johnson, Seconded: Troy Bright, Carried. DPI to liaise with the applicant regarding a potential reduction in park fees for fishers utilising the boat ramp, given the funding support from the Trust. The applicant is to ensure highly visual signage is erected at the ramp to show acknowledgement of the Trust funding.		FW \$170,000	
Essential angler access enhancements for the Swampy Plain River	Khancoban Angling Club	To provide essential access and amenities below Khancoban Pondage to encourage recreational fishers to enjoy this fantastic fishing location. SUPPORTED Moved: Karl Mathers, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.	FW \$8,900		

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Fish Salvage in Murray Irrigation Channels During Winter Shutdown	Edwards Wakool Angling Association (EWAA) Inc	Traditional owners, subject matter experts and volunteers will rescue and relocate native fish to suitable refuge areas during Murray Irrigation Limited winter shutdown channel maintenance period. SUPPORTED Moved: Karl Mathers, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.	FW \$85,228		
Mann River Rehabilitation 2022	Coombadjha	This project will remove lantana and other noxious weeds to provide areas for use by recreational fishers and clean the riparian areas of Coombadjha Creek and the confluence with the Mann River to improve access to the river and campgrounds for fishers. SUPPORTED Moved: Karl Mathers, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried. Condition: The project must utilise more eco-friendly weed poisoning methods such as cut and paste or other products which minimise impacts on fish populations and other river fauna.	FW \$4,000		

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Making More Maccas	NSW DPI	This project will augment the current Macquarie perch recovery actions by providing support for genetic enhancement, population monitoring, relocation of introduced species, eDNA surveys and captive breeding efforts. SUPPORTED Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.	FW \$76,971	FW \$132,761	FW \$77,343
NSW DPI Freshwater Fish Tagging	NSW DPI	To increase the number of fish tagged and broaden the species included in the current tagging program. This will focus on increasing the number of tagged fish released by NSW DPI trout hatcheries and expanding the		FW \$10,000	FW \$10,000

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
		locations of where these fish are stocked. This would also look at the expansion of the program to include tagging of native species by NSW DPI. SUPPORTED Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Peter Johnson, Carried.			
Impacts of parasites on larval fish of the Murray Darling Basin	Charles Sturt University	To assess the impacts of parasites and other pathogens on the growth and survival of larval freshwater fish in the Murray Darling Basin. SUPPORTED Moved: Peter Johnson, Seconded: Karl Mathers, Carried.	FW \$102,656		
Extending knowledge of the development of fish survival behaviour to inform re-stocking programs: night-time behaviour of Murray cod and rainbow trout survival	Charles Sturt University	To extend on research findings from previous RFT project on evaluation of survival behaviour of fish by examining the survival behaviour of Rainbow trout and Murray cod under night-time conditions. This research will support the economic and environmental benefits of re-stocking practices. SUPPORTED Moved: Michael Davey, Seconded: Peter Johnson, Carried.		FW \$39,407	

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Casting for Recovery – A weekend Fly Fishing Retreat for Women with Breast Cancer. An ACT regional project with vision of it becoming an Australian National Project with regional sub branches.	ACT Fly Fishers Inc.	ACT Fly Fishers will provide a free retreat which includes fly fishing tuition on a one to one basis, weekend accommodation and care, for up to 12 women who have had breast cancer. SUPPORTED Moved: John Erskine, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.		FW \$10,000	
Fly Fishing Rods for the Greenwells Fly Fishing Club, Fly Fishing course	Greenwells Fly Fishing Club	This project will purchase six fly fishing rod, reel and line sets to train people in the sport of fly fishing and for use in community-based activities. SUPPORTED Moved: Peter Johnson, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.	FW \$2,916		
Carp We don't Keepit, Carp Muster 2022	Lake Keepit Family Fishing Club	This project will provide an opportunity for the general public and recreational anglers to come together and catch a carp, win a prize and learn about protecting and enhancing native fish habitat and abundance in and around Keepit Dam and the Namoi River. SUPPORTED Moved: Michael Davey, Seconded: Peter Johnson, Carried.	FW \$6,000		

Table 2. Summary of new Freshwater Trust grant applications NOT SUPPORTED for funding by RFFTEC

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Cross Street Reserve Upgrade Project (CSRUP)	Federation Council	<p>To undertake the Cross Street Reserve Upgrade Project to activate the identified space for recreational fishing. The site is within Howlong town limits and will be a safe and engaging space for residents and visitors to access with the proposed upgrades.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED Moved: Peter Johnson, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried.</p> <p>RFFTEC considered the project had little direct benefit to recreational fishing.</p>		FW \$115,000	

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Research and education competition	Filmfish Pty Ltd	<p>Filmfish is an online family fishing competition which aims to collect valuable fish data using citizen science to provide data to relevant bodies. This project proposes to entice more recreational fishers to fish for citizen science through prizes with over \$20,000 in prizes made available through monthly competitions. This is an ongoing competition drawn each month with all profits donated to fish habitat and restoration projects.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Ron Butler, Carried.</p> <p>RFFTEC noted it was apparent the project organisation represented a commercial venture despite there also being a citizen science element. Additionally, RFFTEC also considered it was essential that the data collection be done under a scientific framework in partnership with a university or DPI Fisheries to ensure data quality and useability in fisheries monitoring and assessment.</p>	FW \$18,000 SW \$42,000		

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Pirtek Fishing Challenge -citizen science from Australia's largest fishing competition	National Fishing Challenge	<p>The PFC is Australia's biggest fishing competition with 10,288 competitors in 2021. The event is a catch, measure, photograph, and release tournament open to all anglers both junior and senior nationally. The competition's goal is to raise funds and awareness for Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia and The Peter Duncan Neurosciences Research Unit. The PFC is strictly a non-profit competition. It is proposed that data be collected from fishers throughout NSW during this annual competition to form a long-term dataset for use by DPI Fisheries scientists and managers.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried.</p> <p>RFFTEC noted it was apparent the project organisation represented a commercial venture despite there also being a citizen science element. Additionally, RFFTEC also considered it was essential that the data collection be done under a scientific framework in partnership with a university or DPI Fisheries to ensure data quality and useability in fisheries monitoring and assessment.</p>	FW \$9,870 SW \$23,030	FW \$8,520 SW \$19,880	FW \$8,520 SW \$19,880

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Next Gen Rec Fisher: Inspiring and mobilising fishing stewardship across NSW through modern engagement techniques	OzFish Unlimited	<p>This project will build the capacity of, and demonstrate to fishers, the notion that to continue using and enjoying fishing requires stewardship and good practice in and off the water. The project will deliver a stewardship leadership program identifying and developing 40 recreational fishers into leadership positions; 20 Citizen Science actions to demonstrate stewardship and provide a better understanding of local fish assemblages to each chapter; 20 shared learning events connecting and informing recreational fishers; 12 live podcasts with subject matter experts; a comprehensive blog, fishing media and social media campaign; Newstreams delivery and 3 fish habitat workshops.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED Moved: Karl Mathers, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried.</p> <p>RFFTEC considered the current Fish for Life Program is a more appropriate pathway for additional promotion of responsible fishing and stewardship. OzFish could potentially be a future delivery partner on further modules of Fish for Life.</p>	<p>FW \$113,715</p> <p>SW \$265,335</p>	<p>FW \$106,290</p> <p>SW \$248,010</p>	<p>FW \$115,695</p> <p>SW \$269,955</p>
Women's Recreational Fishing League Seed Funding	Women's Recreational Fishing League	<p>Establish the Women's Recreational Fishing League to support and encourage growth in female participation in recreational fishing. Funding required for development of procedures, community engagement, membership recruitment & ongoing fishing events/activities.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED Moved: Karl Mathers, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried.</p> <p>RFFTEC identified the merit of the project and the current gap in the sector. RFFTEC considered the current Fish for Life Program is a more appropriate pathway for addressing the issue of increasing participation of women in recreational fishing. This proposed project could potentially be a future delivery partner on further modules of Fish for Life.</p>	<p>FW \$49,200</p> <p>SW \$49,200</p>		

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Supporting the adoption of sustainable fishing practices for Murray cod	The Australian River Restoration Centre	<p>This project will engage acclaimed fisher Andy McGovern to develop a series of short videos promoting responsible and sustainable fishing practices to anglers chasing the mighty Murray cod.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Ron Butler, Carried.</p> <p>RFFTEC noted the merit of the project but recommended the applicant liaise with DPI in the first instance to discuss key messaging and existing video resources to ensure no potential overlap.</p>	FW \$32,900		
Bowfishing – Create video content with a focus on safety and education	Oz Fish and Game	<p>This project will produce an educational video that will address the recent rule changes and general safety aspects of bowfishing in NSW.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED Moved: Michael Davey, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried.</p> <p>RFFTEC noted DPI was currently developing an advisory program for the new bowfishing rules and the applicant was encouraged to contact DPI to discuss proposed key messaging.</p>	FW \$6,000		