

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)
MEETING NO.	Meeting 53
DATE & TIME	11 May 2017, 9:00 – 14:00
LOCATION	St George Rowers Club, 1 Levey Street, Wolli 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), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8), Peter Gibson (CFA), Steve Samuels (RFNSW).
APOLOGIES	Peter Turnell (DPI).

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The outcomes of the 52nd RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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 by Bryan van der Walt.

5. Review of new Saltwater Trust grant applications

A total of 13 freshwater and 6 joint funded project applications were received. Expenditure recommendations are provided in the tables in sections 10.1 and 10.2. 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: recreational fish stocking programs; freshwater research programs (including preliminary outcomes of the Lake Eucumbene creel survey).

7. General business

Issues raised in general business are provided in this meeting action items (Table 2).

RFFTEC discussed the following issues:

- The potential benefits of environmental water for fish populations;
- Status of funding for the Talmalmo survey of legal access project - it was noted that the Chair of RFNSW had written to the Minister seeking funding of \$200,000 from revenue from the Crown Road Disposal Program for surveying of formed and unformed Crown roads that made need formal surveying to facilitate recreational access, including for fishing;
- Impact of the seasonal fishing closure between Yarrawonga to Tocumwal on fishers in the Lower Murray region - it was noted this issue was to be discussed at the next RFNSW meeting;
- Preventing the spread of redfin in NSW waterways - it was noted that because redfin are closely related to some native fish in NSW and Australia, biological control, such as the herpes virus proposed for carp, is unlikely to be a viable option. It is highly likely that control measures for redfin in NSW would need to focus on conventional methods such as prevention of translocation between waterways, restoring fish habitat, native fish stocking, reconnecting waterways, irrigation pumping screens and improving water quality. It was also noted he proposed development of a Trout strategy in NSW will include investigating co-fishing opportunities for redfin and trout. Redfin perch is listed as

a Class 1 noxious fish, therefore community education is vital to enhance awareness and associated penalties for live possession and sale of the Redfin).

8. Next meeting

Wednesday 17 August 2017

9. Action items

Table 1 – Action items - previous meeting

Action	Status
That DPI circulates the Gone Fishing Day report.	Completed
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
That a letter of appreciation be written to Richard Ping Kee for longstanding representation on RFFTEC.	Completed
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 – Action items - this meeting

Item	Issue	Action
1.	Financial advice to be sought regarding interest earned on balances for legacy Trust projects.	To be discussed at the next meeting
2.	That a representative from the Aquatic habitat rehabilitation unit be invited to the next committee meeting to discuss the potential benefits of environmental water for fish populations.	Completed
3.	That DPI drafts a small grants policy to provide financial assistance to fishing clubs for fish stocking expenses (e.g. supply of fuel cards to supplement travel / costs) for consideration by RFFTEC.	Completed
4.	That the DPI fishing competition manager provides measuring mats for Woolgarlo Fishing and Social Club tournament competitors.	Completed
5.	That the DPI inland fisheries manager contacts the Woolgarlo Fishing & Social Club regarding future options for fishery specific improvements at Burrinjuck dam.	Completed
6.	That the DPI inland fisheries manager contacts the Guyra & District Chamber of Commerce to consider a revised application through the "Gone Fishing NSW Day" club grants funding round.	Completed
7.	That a communication plan for the promotion of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and Trust programs be discussed at the next meeting.	To be discussed at the next meeting
8.	That stakeholder research priority areas be established to encourage funding applications which address specific knowledge gaps on recreational fish species and issues. That the Director Fisheries Research be invited to provide a presentation at the next meeting to commence the process.	To be discussed at the next meeting



10. Project assessment recommendations

10.1 Projects **SUPPORTED** for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Joint FW/SW Projects

Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) consultation and meeting expenses	NSW DPI	RFNSW advises the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishery policy issues including maintaining and improving the quality of recreational fishing opportunities and access, and recommendations regarding allocation of recreational fishing fee funds to programs that benefit recreational fishing Supported - Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Max Graham.	SW \$22,000 FW \$26,000	\$0	\$0

Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Investigations of nodavirus infections in Australian bass – dollar for dollar (\$ 4 \$) hatcheries	NSW DPI	Testing of Australian bass and estuary perch larvae produced at commercial hatcheries for the purposes of fish stocking into NSW impoundments provides an ability to ensure only nodavirus free larvae are stocked into freshwater NSW impoundments. Supported - Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Max Graham.	FW \$20,000	\$0	\$0
The Final Chapter – Small Grants	Bingara Anglers Club and Hatchery	Bingara Hatchery proposes to build 2 new tanks with covers to replace 2 smaller tanks in need of repair. Supported - Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Ron Croker.	FW \$4,273	\$0	\$0
Development of a NSW trout strategy	NSW DPI	The President of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS) has written a letter to the Recreational Fishing NSW advisory council (attached) seeking support for the development of a NSW trout strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to precis the NSW recreational trout fishery, recognise and outline key challenges facing the fishery and identify actions that both reduce long term risks and increase access to and utilisation of, the fishery. Supported - Moved Ron Croker Seconded Ron Butler.	FW \$40,000	\$0	\$0

Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Gum Bend Lake BBQ and Fish cleaning station – Small Grants	Lachlan Shire Council	This project has the aim of installing a BBQ, fish cleaning station, picnic table and shelter adjacent to Gum Bend Lake and the Lachlan River. Supported - Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Peter Gibson. Condition - Funding support is provided for the concrete slab and fish cleaning table only. Funding is not provided for the shelter structure	FW \$20,000 requested \$10,000 supported	\$0	\$0
Lake Cargelligo BBQ and Fish cleaning station – Small Grants	Lachlan Shire Council	This project has the aim of installing a BBQ, fish cleaning station, picnic table and shelter adjacent to Lake Cargelligo. Supported - Moved Tom Williams Seconded Ron Croker. Condition - Funding support is provided for the concrete slab and fish cleaning table only. Funding is not provided for the shelter structure	FW \$20,000 requested \$10,000 supported	\$0	\$0
Gum Flat Reserve Pallamallawa – Fish Cleaning Facility	Moree Plains Shire Council	Installation of a fish cleaning table with rainwater catchment shelter and water tank to support and encourage fishing activities as part of ongoing enhancement of recreation facilities on the reserve Supported - Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Ian Ward. Condition - Funding support is provided for all of the project items related to the fish cleaning station. Funding of the 8x6M shelter and rainwater tank outside the scope of the Trust funding and not supported	FW \$28,801 requested \$12,500 supported	\$0	\$0
Construction of three fishing platforms at Deniliquin Recreational Fishing Park and Outdoor Centre – Small Grants	Edward River Council	Installation of three fishing platforms at Deniliquin Recreational Fishing Park and Outdoor Centre Supported - Moved Peter Gibson, Seconded Steve Samuels.	FW \$9,000	\$0	\$0
Mungindi Fishing Club's Fish Cleaning Station – Small Grants	Mungindi Fishing Club's Fish Cleaning Station	To build a fish cleaning station at the Mungindi Barwon River Park for locals and tourists. Supported - Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Max Graham.	FW \$9,890	\$0	\$0

10.2 Projects NOT SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Joint FW/SW Projects

Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
The Fly Program Ltd. Men in Flight Program	The Fly Program Ltd	The purpose of The Fly Program's Men in Flight program is to raise awareness of and coordinate programs that address depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicide in the Australian male community. The program focuses on education and peer support through recreational fishing in the natural environment. Not supported - Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Peter Gibson. The committee recognised the importance of addressing mental health issues within the community however considered the project budget to be excessive, that there was little in-kind contribution from service providers and that funding support should also be provided from the Minister for Social Services.	SW \$41,000 (supported) FW \$17,000 (not – supported)	\$0	\$0
What's that Fish – (mobile app)	Darren Foley	Develop an app in relation to fish species, bag limits, size limits, photo of fish caught and where fish was caught, etc. Not supported - Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Max Graham. This would duplicate many aspects of the previously funded FishSmart App currently available.	SW \$10,000 FW \$5,000	\$0	\$0
Promotion of Recreational Fishing Trust programs with Adventure Angler TV	Adventure Angler TV	To successfully promote trust grant projects through hundreds of TV episodes and repeats of Adventure Angler and through various other smaller videos and clips produced for social media. Not supported - Moved Peter Gibson, Seconded Kevin McKinnon. Deemed ineligible - funding for a commercial enterprise. The committees supported the concept, but not the project delivery model as outlined in the application. RFFTEC recommended the development of a Trust communications strategy, which would identify key messages, target audiences and subsequent media to deliver those messages to the target audience. Any new communication initiatives, such as television advertising, should be considered during the development of the strategy.	SW \$16,700 FW \$8,300	\$0	\$0

Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Smartphone Fishing Tournaments	SHOK Fishing Pty Ltd	SHOK Fishing Pty Ltd propose to host monthly fishing tournaments via our existing smartphone application which would allow NSW anglers to participate in a free fishing tournament from any geographical location within NSW for their chance to win prizes. Not supported - Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Debbie Lennon. Deemed ineligible - funding for a commercial enterprise.	SW \$10,000 FW \$5,140	\$0	\$0

Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Establishment of an independent peer-review panel to assist with assessment of research applications for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts	NSW DPI	This project will set up a panel of high-profile scientists to assess the quality of research applications to the Recreational Fishing Trust and make recommendations to the Expenditure Committees. Not supported - Moved Debbie Lennon Seconded Ron Butler. The model proposed by the application was beyond the scope of what the committees require. Alternate models of delivery of research technical assistance were discussed.	SW \$50,000 FW \$20,000	\$0	\$0

Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Boomerang Bags Wingham	Debbie Thompson	Community driven initiative tackling plastic pollution. Communities make re-useable bags using recycled materials, which are made on a "borrow and bring back" basis as a sustainable alternative to plastic bags Not supported - Moved Ron Croker, Seconded Debbie Lennon. The project was not considered to be recreational fisheries specific and did not provide direct benefits for recreational fishers.	FW \$6,460	\$0	\$0

Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Golf Club Tenth Dam Trout Fishing Project	Guyra Hotel Anglers Club Inc	Re-habilitate the dam on the tenth hole of the Guyra Golf Course by dredging and deepening, clear willow trees, establishing fish habitat, installing seating and signage with the aim to establish a permanent fishing venue for teaching children fishing skills and as a tourist attraction promoting Guyra as a trout fishing location and destination. Not supported - Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Ron Croker. Items within the project were not considered to be fishing oriented / related. The application did not specify pollution control measures for stormwater runoff, dredging requirements or future public access / usage arrangements of the dam, noting that it is located on a public golf course.	FW \$19,800	\$0	\$0
Community Area and Information Notice Board	Woolgarlo Fishing & Social Club Incorporated	New fixed seating and tables and shelter, fish weigh in area and recording facilities, notice/information boards for rules, regulations, legislation and safety, commence and implement new tag and release during competitions. Not supported - Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Debbie Lennon. The information boards appeared to be club specific thus benefitting fishing competitors only, with low benefits for the broader angling community. As a matter of policy, Recreational Fishing Trust funds are not normally used to sponsor recreational fishing tournaments or related activities. That DPI works with the applicant on revised future application for project items that would be more favourable for funding by the Trust.	FW \$9,500	\$0	\$0

Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Guyra Spring Troutfest fishing clinic, fishing competition and fishing expo	Guyra and District Chamber of Commerce	Promote children's fishing clinic, fishing competition and fishing expo at this 3 day festival. Not supported - Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Debbie Lennon. This application has been shifted to the Gone Fishing Day Grants for assessment under that program.	FW \$2,200	\$0	\$0

Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Fuel expenses for trout release 2017	Tamworth Trouts Fishing Club Incorporated	<p>Club members have previously vehicles and time for trout releases. The club has been running raffles to fund the fuel for releases and it appears the club will now the venue to run the raffles, which means they will have to go supply their own fuel.</p> <p><i>Not supported - Moved Ron Butler, Seconded Debbie Lennon. Steve Samuels declared a potential conflict of interest and withdrew from discussion and voting on the proposal. The committee supported the activities of the fishing club however considered the proposal would set a precedent for funding expenses of other fish stocking groups. DPI continues to support the work of the fish acclimatisation societies through insurances, permits, fish aid and emergency response. Action - DPI to develop a funding application for a program that all fishing clubs could apply for to be assessed at the next assessment committee meetings.</i></p>	FW \$600	\$0	\$0