

March 2023

Recreational Fishing Trusts funding guidelines

Purpose of guidelines

These guidelines provide essential information for all applicants seeking funding from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts in 2023 and beyond.

Background

When fishing in NSW waters, both freshwater and saltwater, recreational fishers are required to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee. All revenue raised by the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee is placed into the Recreational Fishing Trusts. There are two Trusts - one for saltwater and one for freshwater. Two committees made up of recreational fishers make recommendations on funding priorities. Funds from the Trusts are used to deliver a wide range of programs to boost recreational fishing opportunities in NSW.

Objective

Deliver a wide range of projects and programs using funds from the Trusts to boost recreational fishing opportunities in NSW.

Goals

- Implement innovative projects to boost recreational fishing tourism opportunities.
- Promote of recreational fishing as a healthy, outdoors activity for the whole family.
- Education of fishers to fish responsibly and safely.
- Promote the sustainable growth of recreational fishing.

The program is administered by the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries.

Eligibility

Anyone can apply for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts, including fishing clubs and organisations, universities, councils, community groups, individuals and so on. Joint applications are also encouraged. **To apply for funds all clubs, organisations and community groups must be incorporated in Australia.**

Types of projects funded

Over the years, the Trusts have provided funding for a wide range of projects (see below), which have been implemented by various external organisations and DPI. Comprehensive angler surveys of the Recreational Fishing Trusts continue to show widespread support for the current range of programs that receive funding from the Trusts.

Platform	Project examples
recreational fishing education	fishing workshops and clinics including teaching kids and adults how to fish and fishing for therapy, schools education programs, fishing advisory, increasing participation in recreational fishing & other fishing club events to promote fishing, DPI Fishcare volunteers
fishing access and facilities	fishing amenities such as platforms, cleaning tables, kayak launching platforms, access upgrades, fishing safety infrastructure, fishing line bins & other angler facilities, enhancement of fishing access
research on fish and recreational fishing	fishing surveys, biology of popular recreational species, angler catch projects, effectiveness of stocking practices
aquatic habitat rehabilitation and protection	grants to remove barriers to fish migration, replanting & protecting river bank vegetation, restoring water flows, etc. [Note: there is a separate grant funding opportunity for Habitat Action Grants– see general instructions section]
recreational fishing enhancement	fish aggregating devices, artificial reefs, fish stocking [Note: there is a separate grant funding opportunity for Dollar for Dollar stocking grants – see general instructions section]
enforcement of fishing rules	DPI fisheries officers

More information on previously funded projects is available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work

Application procedures

Is matching funding a requirement?

Matching funding is not a requirement, however, other contributions towards the project will improve the value for money of the project. Include details of other contributions to the project including any voluntary labour and project management time as an ‘in-kind’ contribution (this includes hands on volunteer work, project management, administration, reporting, donations etc).

Eligibility criteria to be addressed when applying

- Organisations must be incorporated.
- Applications must be completed in full, including the budget section (with sufficient detail to enable a sound assessment).
- Applications must show clearly how the project team will deliver the project.

Assessment criteria to be addressed when applying

- Funding applications **must relate to the improvement of recreational fishing** and will be assessed against the extent of benefit to recreational fishing.
- Projects must show appropriate and adequate expertise within the project team to complete the project.
- Projects must be technically sound and utilise best practice.
- Projects must have an accurate, cost effective budget which shows value for money. Contributing funding or 'in-kind' contribution by the applicant and other project partners should be included in the budget, where relevant.
- Projects must show stakeholder support for the project (where relevant).
- On ground projects should not be on private land or land with no free public access (where relevant).
- Projects should not include construction of general public amenities such as toilet blocks etc. (unless direct relevance to recreational fishing can be clearly demonstrated). However, general public amenities may be an important part of an overall project and could be included as part of the applicant's contribution to the project. For example, a local land manager might apply for funding for a fishing platform and their contribution to the project could be to fund the adjoining car parking.
- Project activities should not include commercial ventures or materials developed for a primarily commercial purpose.
- Project activities should not include running the business of organisations/clubs including building club premises or improving club facilities that are only available to club members.
- Project activities should not include dredging activities (this is usually the responsibility of local authorities).

Note: Prior to applying boating infrastructure projects, applicants should consider the NSW Boating Now program in the first instance for construction of boat launching ramps, boat wharves, boating pontoons or other boating infrastructure.

Advice on ways to improve / maximise the cost benefit of a project:

- Infrastructure projects are usually reviewed in terms of what is the level of the requested funding in relation to the extent the infrastructure benefits recreational fishers. So key things to consider for a fish cleaning table would be how many taps does the table have, or how wide is the fishing platform or how many fishers can use it at the same time?
- Education or research projects are often statewide or regional, benefitting many people, but even if a project is very small scale and localised, it may have statewide benefit if it is run as a pilot project with the results shared through wider networks.
- Investigate all other potential sources of funding that could contribute to the project. Provide any evidence of unsuccessful attempts to gain funding from other sources.
- Quotes and estimates for project items should be sought to obtain best value for money. When developing the project costings, any quotes/estimates should be attached to the project application to assist in the assessment of the project's value for money.

Other general instructions

Aquatic habitat rehabilitation projects

Please note – Recreational Fishing Trust funding for projects that restore, rehabilitate and protect fish habitat is available through the DPI [Habitat Action Grants Program](#) and requires a different funding application form. Aquatic habitat rehabilitation project applications must be submitted via the Habitat Action Grants Program rather than the Recreational Fishing Trust grants funding round. Any aquatic habitat rehabilitation projects received during the general Recreational Fishing Trust grant funding round are usually referred to the Habitat Action Grants Program or back to the applicant. For further information on the habitat projects please contact the Habitat Action Grants Program coordinator on fish.habitat@dpi.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 6763 1206.

Fish stocking projects

Please note - Recreational Fishing Trust funding for community projects for re-stocking rivers or impoundments with freshwater native fish is available through the DPI [Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program](#) and requires a different funding application form. An Expression of Interest for this separate funding program is released in February each year. For further information phone (02) 6763 1217.

Fishing infrastructure projects

Standard design plans with a number of design options are available online for fish cleaning stations at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work/fishing-access-and-facilities>. Any lighting should be solar powered unless a power supply is readily available. There are no standardised plans for fishing platforms as their design is very dependent on site specific factors. Specialised advice and assistance on fishing infrastructure design is available by calling the DPI Angling Infrastructure Manager on (02) 4916 3835.

Education projects

Applicants should seek to utilise existing Recreational Fishing Trusts funded and/or DPI Fisheries educational resources such as fisheries education materials and programs so as to build on and not duplicate fisheries education efforts. A good place to start is to talk to your local DPI Fisheries Education Officer to see what resources are already available. For contact details visit the website - www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishcare-volunteers

Application forms

There are two different funding application forms to choose from when applying for funding – a simpler, less detailed form for small projects seeking **less than \$10,000 of funding** and another form for large projects seeking **more than \$10,000 of funding**. All forms can be downloaded electronically online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work/apply-for-funds

Budget

In-kind contributions

Please ensure all aspects of the project are identified and costed in the budget table. This includes voluntary labour, donations of time or specialist expertise, project management and administration time, donation of plant and equipment to the project, the value of discounted rates given to the project, etc. All of these ‘in-kind’ contributions to projects should be costed. These contributions, when realistically costed, add value to the project and improve the project’s overall value for money.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Organisations that are GST registered must quote GST exclusive prices in their project item costings. If your organisation is not GST registered, your organisation will still pay GST on goods and services, therefore you need to quote GST inclusive prices in your costings.

How to apply

Download the appropriate funding application form online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work/apply-for-funds or contact 02 4916 3835 if you would like a form mailed to you.

Submitting the form

- Email to recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au
or
- Mail to: Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer
NSW DPI
LMB 3020
Nowra NSW 2541

Note: Email is the preferred method of receiving application forms. If you email your application, there is no need to send a hard copy by mail. Receipt of applications will only be acknowledged on request.

Only information which is considered essential for assessment should be sent as attachments with your application, please do not send excessive pages of attachments as these have to be copied multiple times for each assessor.

Successful applicants will be required to:

1. enter into a Recreational Fishing Trusts Funding Deed
2. submit written reports on completed milestones as agreed to in the Funding Deed and submit invoices as a condition of receiving funding instalments
3. submit a final project and financial report on the project to DPI within 60 days of completing the project
4. acknowledge the Recreational Fishing Trusts in project publications and signage

Who can assist you?

All applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Recreational Fishing Trust Management Team prior to preparing an application. For assistance with completing your application and to ensure applications are consistent with priorities for funding:

Contact: Recreational Fishing Trust Management Team (02) 4916 3835; Email recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au or visit the Department's website at www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au

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