

Recreational Fishing Trusts funding guidelines

September 2020

Purpose

These guidelines provide essential information for all applicants seeking funding from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts in 2021 and beyond.

Recreational Fishing Trusts

Background

When fishing in NSW waters, both freshwater and saltwater, recreational fishers are required to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee. All money raised by the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee is placed into the Recreational Fishing Trusts and spent on **improving recreational fishing in NSW. Two committees made up of recreational fishers** - one for saltwater and one for freshwater – make recommendations on funding priorities.

Who can apply?

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.**

What types of projects are funded?

Over the years, the Trusts have provided funding for a wide range of projects (see below). 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, Fishcare volunteers, schools education, fishing advisory, increasing participation in recreational fishing & other fishing club events to promote fishing
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, recreational fishing havens
recreational fishing enhancement	fish aggregating devices, artificial reefs, fish stocking

Platform	Project examples
research on fish and recreational fishing	fishing surveys, biology of popular recreational species, angler catch projects, effectiveness of stocking
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 funding round for these projects – see general instructions pg 3]
enforcement of fishing rules	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

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

Funding applications **must relate to the improvement of recreational fishing**. Where applicable, projects should:

- have appropriate expertise within the project team to complete the project
- represent value for money by incorporating other contributing funding or 'in-kind' contribution by the applicant and other project partners
- be technically sound and utilise best practice
- build on and extend the outcomes of projects and work previously funded by the Recreational Fishing Trust
- consider other funding options (such as the NSW Boating Now program) in the first instance for construction of boat launching ramps, boat wharves, boating pontoons or other boating infrastructure

Projects that would not receive favourable consideration, or would be considered a low priority include:

- Commercial ventures or materials developed for a primarily commercial purpose
- On ground projects on private land or land with no free public access
- Requests for funding the business of organisations/clubs including building club premises or improving club facilities that are only available to club members
- Construction of general amenities such as picnic tables, car parking, toilet blocks, BBQs and other picnic area enhancements
- Ongoing maintenance e.g. dredging or general repair and maintenance of fishing and boating infrastructure (this is usually the responsibility of local authorities)
- Projects that have limited benefit to recreational fishing

What project items are ineligible for funding?

As listed above, some things are not generally funded by the Trusts. Project items such as picnic tables and shelters and BBQs are usually considered low priority, however, they may be an important part of a project and can 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.

Is there a funding limit for project applications or funding caps on project items?

No, however, projects are assessed on their value for money, that is, what is the level of benefit from the project compared to the cost of the project.

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 and 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.

How are projects assessed?

Projects are assessed against a number of criteria including:

- the extent of benefit to recreational fishing and support from recreational fishers
- cost effectiveness, value for money and sound budgeting
- the adequacy of expertise within the project team, and
- whether the project is technically sound

General instructions

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

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 require a different funding application form. Aquatic habitat rehabilitation project applications must be submitted via the Habitat Action Grants Program rather than the general Recreational Fishing Trust funding round. Any aquatic habitat rehabilitation projects received during the general Recreational Fishing Trust 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 - a different application form applies to re-stocking rivers or impoundments with freshwater native fish. An Expression of Interest to re-stock public waters with native fish through the [Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking 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>. 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.

Research on fish and recreational fishing projects

Applications should identify how the proposed project is a priority for recreational fishing, what knowledge gap the project seeks to address and how the project outcomes will be relevant to NSW fisheries management.

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 procedures

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?

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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