

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) meeting OUTCOMES

Meeting Number: 67 **Date:** 27 July 2022 **Time:** 9:00am – 2:30pm
Location: Branksome Hotel, 60 Robey St, Mascot, Sydney
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 (DPI)

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Karl Mathers attended the meeting via video link.

2. Apologies

Peter Turnell, Troy Bright, Peter Johnson.

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 66th RFFTEC meeting held on 3 February 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Max Graham, 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 license sales for the various license types were discussed.

b. *Review of new Freshwater grant applications*

A total of 25 Freshwater Trust grant applications were received following a widely advertised call for applications released by the Minister on 23 May 2022. 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.

c. *Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program*

A total of \$4.2 million was provided to DPI under the Commonwealth Government's recreational fishing and camping facilities program to administer and distribute grants to local councils for fishing and camping infrastructure projects. A total of 25 fishing, boating and camping infrastructure grants were recently approved for funding under the Commonwealth funded program.

6. Presentations

Dr Jamin Forbes, Strategic Partnership Manager presented FRDC priorities and discussed future collaboration opportunities between the FRDC and the Recreational Fishing Trusts across the fishing and aquaculture sectors.

Dr Tom Rayner provided an update on the progress of the screens for streams project. Project managers have engaged with irrigators in the Macquarie Valley on best practice screening opportunities and have attended a screens symposium with screens experts from New Zealand, to provide an opportunity for knowledge exchange. Project managers have also presented at stakeholder forums (e.g. Riverlands, Australian Society of Fish Biology) to support the adoption of fish screening technology. Dr Rayner is currently preparing a discussion / issues paper on fish screening options and implementation.

Mr Jim Harnwell provided an update on DPI's freshwater angler access program including the new angler access website and general angler access matters.

7. Project variations

a. Anglers Reach boat ramp

The Adaminaby Fishing Club (sub branch of Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc) previously received approval for funds from the Trust to construct a new boat ramp at Anglers Reach, Lake Eucumbene. While the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS) is registered as an incorporated entity, the sub branch MAS Adaminaby Fishing Club listed as the project lead is not incorporated. A project variation was discussed to change the project organisation to Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc. in order to meet this administrative requirement.

Supported, moved Ron Croker, seconded Ron Butler, carried.

b. Tenterfield Dam fishing platform

Tenterfield Shire Council have advised DPI of significant savings of \$100,000 with the Tenterfield Dam fishing platform project by changing the design from a fixed structure to a floating design. Council has advised that a dedicated kayak launching facility is required to so that the dam can be opened to unpowered watercraft in the future. A project variation was discussed to incorporate a kayak launch facility into the Tenterfield Dam fishing platform using unspent approved project funds and to contribute to the costs of an amenities block if Council are unsuccessful with funding bids through other sources. No additional funds are sought.

Supported, moved Ron Butler, seconded Max Graham, carried.

8. General business

The Fuel Card Evaluation Panel (FCEP) has supported the provision of \$4,500 to 15 trout stocking groups which applied for fuel card assistance during 2022/23. FCEP also supported the provision of fuel cards to community groups which apply for fuel card assistance in 2022/23 at completion of upcoming dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking program events.

The next World Recreational Fishing Conference will be held in Melbourne from 19-22 February 2023. A RFFTEC committee delegate can nominate to attend the conference.

Michael Davey will attend the next Habitat Action Grant technical panel meeting, to be held in Sydney on the 9th and 10th of November.

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