

# Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) meeting OUTCOMES

**Meeting Number:** 67      **Date:** 27 July 2022      **Time:** 9:00am – 2:30pm  
**Location:** Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport Hotel and Conference Centre, 241  
O’Riordan Street, Mascot  
**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.

## 2. Apologies

Peter Turnell, Troy Bright, Peter Johnson.

## 3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 66<sup>th</sup> 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 licence sales for the various licence 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 (Table 1 & 2).

### 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 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 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

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

**Platform: Fishing access and facilities**

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
The Pergola at the Jetty	Jerilderie Fishing Club	The Jerilderie Fishing Club plans to construct a small Pergola (6m × 6m) above their jetty and boat ramp built about 5 years ago to provide shade for users. <b>\$9,500 REQUESTED. \$7,500 SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Butler, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.</b> <b>RFFTEC did not support funding for the labour component of the project, which was considered a club responsibility.</b>	FW \$7,500	
Inclusive Fishing Platform – 10th Dam	Guyra Anglers Club Inc	To build a platform that will enable all recreational fisher people, including those with mobility issues to access Tenth Dam Guyra in a safe and appropriate manner. <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Michael Davey, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.</b>	FW \$13,835	
Carcoar Dam	Blayney Shire Council	To install an all-weather bitumen seal to and from the boat ramp and install a carpark for vehicle and boat trailers to improve the current amenities – outdated. <b>\$82,455 REQUESTED. \$59,400 SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: John Erskine, Carried.</b> <b>RFFTEC did not support funding for the amenities block, which was considered a Council responsibility.</b>	FW \$59,400	
Supply and Installation of 2 x 60W LED Solar Powered Lights	Gwydir Shire Council	Supply and Install 2 x 60W LED solar powered lights on powder coated pole to illuminate boat ramp at Bingara Boat ramp. <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Paul Mullen, Carried.</b>	FW \$9,211	
Keeping trout anglers on the right track.	Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc	To rehabilitate major informal tracks that provide access to the foreshores of Lake Eucumbene, Lake Jindabyne and Thredbo River. <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.</b>	FW \$30,000	

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Lake Cargelligo Central School Fishing for Recreation and Learning	Lake Cargelligo Central School	This project plans for students to be more involved in fishing for sport and recreation while learning about their local area and requirements involved in sustaining our local environment.  <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: John Erskine, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.</b>	FW \$3,538	
Boys to the Bush (BttB) Fishing for Connection: Fishing education and social inclusion for disadvantaged youth	Boys to the Bush Ltd	This project will enable youth and community development organisation BttB to purchase fishing equipment for use on 1:1 Mentoring, schools programs and holiday camps across six NSW locations.  <b>\$32,150 REQUESTED. \$10,000 SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.</b>  <b>RFFTEC recommended the applicant reduces the quantity of equipment or sources cheaper alternative equipment than requested.</b>	FW \$10,000	
Fish For Life Stage 2 – strengthening recreational fishing through sector growth, more diversity, enhanced fisheries sustainability, improved social licence and stewardship.	NSW DPI	Following the launch of the Fish For Life (Stage 1) brand in 2021, DPI plans to team up with external partners to deliver a range of new on ground and online initiatives under the Fish For Life banner as part of Stage 2 campaign. Five subprograms will align with the core values of the Fish For Life brand – sector growth, diversity, sustainability, social licence and stewardship – and will be delivered in close partnership with the recreational fishing industry and community (through government tender processes). This approach and next stage is a recommendation from RFNSW following review of Stage 1 FFL outcomes.  <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.</b>	SW \$459,084  FW \$153,028	SW \$261,175  FW \$87,058

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Brag mats for when you don't feel like bragging.	Darlington Point Riverina Classic Catch and Release Fishing Competition	<p>Print brag mats with educational fishing information and mental health resources for distribution at the Darlington Point Riverina Classic Catch and Release Fishing Competition, via Rural Outreach Counselling and our sponsor.</p> <p><b>\$5,800 REQUESTED. \$4,800 SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.</b></p> <p>RFFTEC was supportive of providing funding for brag mats which promote responsible fishing practices. It was noted this application was not related to the core business of running the competition. RFFTEC noted a minor error in the calculation of the budget table in relation to other funding contributions and reduced the approved budget accordingly to \$4,800. RFFTEC recommended that the applicant liaise with DPI to provide advisory material such as summary rule brochures and sticky rulers for distribution at the event.</p>	FW \$4,800	
Collingullie Fishing Comp	Collingullie Fishing Comp	<p>To encourage local residents to engage in local recreational fishing around the region. To provide information on the legality of fishing and boating in local waterways.</p> <p><b>\$10,000 REQUESTED. \$4,000 SUPPORTED. Moved: Michael Davey, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.</b></p> <p>RFFTEC was supportive of providing funding for brag mats only which promote responsible fishing practices. Funding for core competition business was not supported. RFFTEC recommended that the applicant liaise with DPI to provide advisory material such as summary rule brochures and sticky rulers for distribution at the event.</p>	FW \$4,000	

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Trial \$2 for \$1 native fish stocking scheme – doubling down on community fish stockings to boost freshwater native fish stocks	NSW DPI	To trial the doubling of the matching amount of funds provided from the Recreational Fishing Trust to community stocking groups to purchase fish to boost freshwater native fish stocks, following drought, fish kills, floods and Covid restrictions. <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Butler, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried.</b>	FW \$250,000	FW \$250,000
Fish Transport tanks and lease vehicles for Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries	NSW DPI / in collaboration with Monaro Acclimatisation Society & Central Acclimatisation Society	Purpose built fish transport tanks that can be mounted to leased trucks to increase carrying capacity and ability to transport and stock fish. <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Max Graham, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.</b>	FW \$150,000	
Hatchery Technician at Narrandera Fisheries Centre	NSW DPI	To continue employment of the hatchery technician at Narrandera Fisheries Centre who began work in March 2021. <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.</b>	FW \$168,146	

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Rec Fisher Habitat Capacity: Building the fish habitat capacity, knowledgebase, delivery capability and leadership qualities of NSW recreational fishers	OzFish Unlimited	<p>OzFish now has 22 chapters of fishers across NSW willing and interested in taking action to improve the habitat and health of their local waterways. This program will pilot for one year, provision of the support and resourcing sought after by the recreational fishers in these chapters to take action and be leaders in aquatic habitat restoration and improve fishing outcomes in their local waterways, across NSW.</p> <p><b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Butler, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried.</b></p> <p><b>RFFTEC member Michael Davey declared a potential conflict of interest and left the room during discussions of the application.</b></p>	<p>FW \$59,400</p> <p>SW \$138,600</p>	
Fishers for Fish Habitat 2	OzFish Unlimited	<p>This project will continue and enhance the current Fishers for Fish Habitat program (on behalf of NSW DPI) providing information on fish and fish habitat to NSW recreational fishers and the broader community through a yearly Fishers for Fish Habitat forum, 4 issues of Newstreams per annum and the maintenance of the Fish Habitat Network website.</p> <p><b>SUPPORTED. Moved: John Erskine, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.</b></p> <p><b>RFFTEC member Michael Davey declared a potential conflict of interest and left the room during discussions of the application.</b></p>	<p>FW \$5,550</p> <p>SW \$12,950</p>	<p>FW \$5,550</p> <p>SW \$12,950</p>
Engaging recreational fishers to recycle opera house yabby traps to restore fish habitat	TierraMar Ltd	<p>A project to reduce the impacts of illegal yabby traps by engaging recreational fishers to hand in their traps, have them recycled and turned into useful products, with proceeds going to fish habitat restoration.</p> <p><b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Karl Mathers, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.</b></p>	<p>FW \$177,420</p>	

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
NSW Cold Water Pollution Mitigation Strategy – Phase 1 Development	NSW DPI	Finalise Phase 1 of the NSW Cold Water Pollution Mitigation Strategy will deliver a coordinated plan to proactively improve water quality and temperatures at high priority dams across NSW to benefit native fish.  <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.</b>	FW \$236,387	FW \$242,615

**Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing**

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Parasites of Rainbow trout: impact on fish survival, other fish and human health	Charles Sturt University	To examine hatchery-reared Rainbow trout for parasites. Parasites can influence the ability of fish to avoid predation and can pose a risk to other fish and human health. This research will support the economic, environmental and community health benefits of re-stocking practice.  <b>SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried.</b>	FW \$39,965	



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	2022/23	2023/24
Construction of a Boat Ramp at Hillston	Carrathool Shire Council	<p>Construction of a boat ramp into the Lachlan River at Hillston to assist and encourage recreational fishing and increase tourism to the area.</p> <p><b>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Max Graham, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried.</b></p> <p><b>RFFTEC considered the benefit/cost ratio was low given the high project cost. The Committee encouraged Council to resubmit the proposal with a reduction in budget and removal of some of the associated components including the pontoon, dewatering and contingency funding which were considered a Council responsibility. This would also make the application more cost-effective.</b></p>	FW \$432,106	
Construction of Cudgegong Waters Park Amenities Building	Mid-Western Regional Council	<p>Replacement of old toilet block to increase accessibility to Cudgegong Waters Park through construction of a new amenities building featuring showers, toilets, laundry, a store room and camp kitchen.</p> <p><b>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.</b></p> <p><b>RFFTEC noted the project was for general recreational amenity and not fishing specific.</b></p>	FW \$450,000	
Upgrade of Cudgegong Waters Park (Windamere Dam) Fishing Accessibility	Mid-Western Regional Council	<p>Project will relocate and install water, sewer, electrical, lighting and access services/infrastructure at Cudgegong Waters Park to enhance fishing accessibility and services and improve recreational fishing experiences at Windamere Dam.</p> <p><b>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.</b></p> <p><b>RFFTEC noted the project was for general recreational amenity and not fishing specific.</b></p>	FW \$117,000	
Upgrade Rylstone Caravan Park (Cudgegong River) Recreational Fishing Amenities	Mid-Western Regional Council	<p>Project will construct roads, services and associated infrastructure at Rylstone Caravan Park to improve amenities and increase accessibility to recreational fishing at the nearby Cudgegong River (Rylstone) and Windamere Dam.</p> <p><b>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.</b></p> <p><b>RFFTEC noted the project was for general recreational amenity and not fishing specific.</b></p>	FW \$343,400	

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Snowy Trout Challenge	Snowy Trout Challenge Inc.	<p>The Snowy Trout Challenge (STC) offers a chance to make the most of tourism visitation to the Snowies during Spring, Summer and Autumn. 'Escape the city, catch a big tagged rainbow trout and be in the fortnightly draw to win a cash prize'. The objective of the 'free to enter' STC is to increase tourism visitation over the warmer months in the Snowy Mountains, and thus promote economic recovery and growth of local business during the fishing season.</p> <p><b>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: John Erskine, Carried.</b></p> <p><b>RFFTEC noted the project was essentially about running the business of the fishing competition which was considered low priority for funding. It was noted DPI will provide in kind trout from the Gaden Trout Hatchery for the competition.</b></p>	FW \$51,187	
IFishcomps Project Momentum	IFishcomps	<p>Promotion and implementation of new features to IFishComps free app that advertises and strongly supports local, regional, national and online fishing competitions and related social events to fishing enthusiasts of all ages throughout Australia.</p> <p><b>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Michael Davey, Seconded: John Erskine, Carried.</b></p> <p><b>RFFTEC noted that there were a number of existing apps with similar functionality, including the current DPI FishSmart app. RFFTEC also noted there may be a commercial advertising element to the project app.</b></p>	FW \$143,240	

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Non-Native Carp Eradication from Northern Rivers Uki to Tweed Byron-Tweed Shire Regions	Clarrie Hall Fishing Charters	<p>Up to 6 people on a guided supervised trip to spear carp in non-boat accessible areas via kayak to help eradicate non-native carp as it is a pest.</p> <p><b>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Michael Davey, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried.</b></p> <p><b>RFFTEC noted bow fishing for carp was not considered an effective method for carp eradication.</b></p>	FW \$4,200	