

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)
MEETING NO.	Meeting 58
DATE	8 November 2018
LOCATION	L.P. Dutton Trout Hatchery, Point Lookout Road, Ebor
ATTENDEES	Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Ian Ward (Region 4), Tom Williams (Region 5), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8), Steve Samuels (RFNSW), Peter Gibson (NSW CFA), Cameron Westaway (NSW DPI)
APOLOGIES	Ron Butler (Region 2), Ron Croker (Region 3), Debbie Lennon (Region 6), Max Graham (Region 1), John Erskine (Region 7)

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 57th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Tom Williams, Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried.

3. Register of interests

No new interests were declared.

4. Action items from previous meeting

The progress of action items from the previous meeting was discussed.

5. Recreational Fishing Trust update

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members. Statistics and trends of licence revenue were discussed.

6. Review of Freshwater Trust grant applications

Funding recommendations with respect to freshwater applications are provided in Annex 1. Funding recommendations will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration.

7. Review of Habitat Action Grant (HAG) applications

An update on previously supported habitat projects and the status of the Habitat Action Grants program was presented to RFFTEC by DPI. A total of 11 freshwater habitat action grant applications were received requesting \$291,475. The Technical Assessment Panel (TAP) met on 30/10/18 to consider the applications and provided recommendations for consideration by RFFTEC. A total of 8 projects are recommended for funding. Funding recommendations with respect to freshwater habitat grant applications are provided in Annex 2. Funding recommendations will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration. It was noted that funds of \$36,500 were unallocated in the HAG 2018/19 round of supported projects. The Committee recommended that unallocated funds from 17/18 and 18/19 should be returned to the Trust noting it is not proposed to expend the full 18/19 budget. If additional HAG program funds are needed in the future for suitable projects, the committee invited the program to request more funding at that time.

8. Project variation – Fish Screening at irrigation diversions in NSW

Charles Sturt University (CSU) has submitted a project variation for the previously funded “Screens for streams” project. The ARC Research Hub application bid was unsuccessful resulting in a reduction in the overall scope and project budget and a reallocation of resources, although the Recreational Fishing Trust component remains largely unchanged. NSW DPI Fisheries will now govern the project with CSU as co-investigators. NSW Local Land Services will also contribute funding to the project. RFFTEC supported a continuation of project funding noting the reduction in the overall project extent with no change to the Recreational Fishing Trust budget and the proponent change. Moved, Steve Samuels, Seconded Ian Ward, Carried.

9. Presentations

NSW DPI provided presentations to RFFTEC on the following programs:

- a) Fishers for fish habitat forum and fish habitat network - A total of 88 participants attended the fish habitat forum in Ballina on 24-25/8/18. The 2 day event included presentations from fishers, managers and scientists on state-wide and interstate fish habitat protection and rehabilitation projects. A field tour visited rehabilitation sites at Emigrant Creek, South Lismore and Kyogle. The fish habitat network consists of a website, Newstream service and Facebook page. The fish habitat network is used to promote habitat action grants and establish partnerships with groups involved in fish habitat restoration.
- b) Fuel card grants - A total of 21 fish stocking and 4 habitat rehabilitation applications were submitted for the 2018-19 grant period. To date, around \$1,700 worth of fuel cards have been issued for completed events in 2018/19.
- c) Gone Fishing Day 2018 - The NSW Gone Fishing Day (GFD) was held on 14 October 2018 at various sites across NSW. GFD events were located in highly visible/accessible locations in coastal and inland areas. Inland events were held at Queanbeyan and Forbes. A range of partner organisations were involved in the GFD to create a carnival-type atmosphere. Overall the GFD was highly successful although rain affected some locations, particularly Grafton. A total of 63 fishing clubs also ran GFD events across the State.
- d) Recreational trout strategy - A draft trout strategy is being prepared following the community workshops held in May 2018 and in response to the release of the workshops report in August 2018. Issues and themes to be canvassed in the draft strategy were presented.
- e) Fish passage strategy – this project involves the development of a strategic 20-year state-wide fishway infrastructure strategy to remediate the top 160 priority barriers to migrating fish. A business case incorporating innovative pre-fabricated fishway designs, procurement, construction and research and monitoring, is being developed. A total of 41 priority structures have been identified for remediation within the first 5 years.
- f) Ebor hatchery tour – A tour of the Ebor trout hatchery facility was conducted. Current and future hatchery infrastructure projects and this year’s trout stocking program were discussed.

Annex 1. Summary of funding recommendations

Projects SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Cull of the carp	Yarrawonga College P-12 Year 12 VCAL PD	To print and supply participants of the 2018 Yarrawonga/Mulwala Cod Classic with carp eradication stickers. Supported conditional to including the Recreational Fishing Trust logo on carp stickers. Supported. Moved Ian Ward Seconded Tom Williams, Carried.	\$500		

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fish For Life campaign to strengthen social licence and grow recreational fishing in NSW.	DPI Fisheries	To develop a campaign advocating the important role recreational fishing plays within the NSW community, to promote the significant socio-economic benefits associated with recreational fishing, to engender increased ownership, stewardship and social responsibility towards recreational fishing. Supported. Moved Peter Gibson Seconded Kevin McKinnon, Carried. Peter Gibson was nominated as the RFFTEC panel member on the Fish for Life steering committee.	FW \$100,000 SW \$400,000		

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Driving Fish Habitat Action with a Landcare NSW/OzFish Unlimited community partnership	OzFish Unlimited	Sixty fish habitat restoration sites will be established by OzFish and Landcare combining resources across NSW with improved fish habitat and increased fishing opportunities. Supported for 1 year of funding to enable assessment of outcomes. Conditional on the finding agreement stipulating a deliverable of 15 projects in the first year, as stated in the Trust application (along with other stated deliverables and milestones). Moved Steve Samuels Seconded Kevin McKinnon, Carried.	FW \$90,700 SW \$114,050		

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Peel River pollution prevention	Tamworth Regional Council	Preventing rubbish pollution in the Peel River by installing Gross Pollutant Traps on stormwater drain outlets flowing into the Peel River. Repurposed shopping trolleys by the local Mens Shed will be used as grill "wings" on either side of storm water outlets to collect excess litter during high flow periods. Supported. Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Tom Williams, Carried.	\$6,500		

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Infrastructure redevelopment at Narrandera Fisheries Centre	NSW DPI Fisheries	Construction of new ponds to enable an increase in fish production at Narrandera Fisheries Centre providing fish to cover \$4\$ program shortfall. Moved Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Ian Ward, Carried. Supported out of session and subsequently endorsed by RFNSW.	\$155,400		

Projects **NOT SUPPORTED** for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Re stocking fish into the Macquarie River	Wiradjuri Wellington Aboriginal Town Common Aboriginal Corporation	Will construct an aquaponics system, will purchase Murray Cod fingerlings and will on-grow fingerlings to maturity prior to release into the Macquarie River, Wellington. Not supported at this stage. Will re-consider on submission of additional information on the aquaponics system and project budget. Matt McLellan, Hatchery Manager Narrandera Fisheries Centre to investigate and provide further project details. Did not support fish stocking within the Macquarie River. Moved. Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried.	\$10,000		

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Robust resource assessment and stock enhancement for the iconic Murray Crayfish recreational fishery	NSW DPI Fisheries	The project will provide targeted and benchmarking monitoring to allow robust resource assessment and stock enhancement to promote species recovery in low population areas. Not supported at this stage. The committee considered that the project methodology lacked sufficient detail and the budget was unclear. Will re-consider on submission of additional information on the purpose and end point, and upon clarification of the project budget. Moved. Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Peter Gibson, Carried.		\$48,000	\$136,000

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Men In Flight Program	The Fly Program Ltd	To increase participation and promote the significant health, wellness and socio-economic benefits recreational fishing has directly on participants and the wider community. Not supported. RFFTEC was concerned about the very high participant cost and running costs. It was also considered funding should be sourced from other sources. Moved, Ian Ward, Seconded, Peter Gibson Carried.	FW \$24,804 SW \$57,876		

Annex 2. Freshwater Habitat Action Grant projects SUPPORTED for funding from the Technical Assessment Panel & RFFTEC

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Screens in Streams - Fish Friendly Screens for Future Fishing	Central Tablelands LLS	Screens for Streams is a partnership with industry to pilot fish friendly irrigation intakes. This project will implement the latest technology to create awareness and promote adoption of fish friendly screens at 6 sites along the Lachlan, Macquarie and Murray Rivers targeting known communities of endangered fish species at high profile sites.	\$37,700		
Homes for cod	Bush Heritage Australia	This project will install 8 fish hotel homes for Murray Cod downstream of the Bredbo Gorge where natural breeding of the species occurs. Habitat survey will inform placement of cod caves at Scottsdale Reserve, which will be made by volunteers and local schools.	\$29,630		
Rehabilitation of 'Risky' Paddock	Summer Hill Creek Landcare Inc	Summer Hill Creekcare will join forces with DPI, Charles Sturt University and Orange City Council to rehabilitate some of CSU's riparian land at Second Crossing, Ophir Road to improve habitat for fish and other wildlife. Fencing 1.2km, 8ha weeding, 12ha revegetation.	\$22,504		
Heal the Peel - Riparian Restoration	Ozfish Northwest	Ozfish Northwest will continue riparian rehabilitation along 500m of the Peel River in Tamworth CBD through weeding and revegetation. On ground works will link previous habitat rehabilitation projects to enhance recreational fishing on the Peel.	\$30,050		
Restoring Macquarie perch habitat in the upper Murrumbidgee	Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers Australia	This project will restore native fish habitat including a 4ha floodplain by controlling willows and replanting instream and floodplain vegetation. A sign will be installed at this public access site to educate fishers about threatened species found there.	\$19,436		
Tarcutta Creek Habitat Restoration Project	Ozfish Unlimited - Wagga Chapter	Implement best practice riverbank stabilisation techniques – 500m of erosion control works, angled re-snagging (7), stock exclusion fencing, native planting (1km), 500m weeding and willow removal – to promote regeneration of freshwater riparian vegetation and improved fish habitat along actively eroding river banks along Tarcutta Creek.	\$26,600		
Peel River Riparian Rehabilitation and Pollution Prevention	Tamworth Regional Council	Promoting healthy regeneration of the Peel River to improve fish habitat by stabilizing riverbanks through weed control and native revegetation (0.675ha). *Gross Pollutant Traps component of this project redirected to regular trust funding stream.	\$1,273		
Awash with Fish – Washpool Creek, Tenterfield	Ozfish Tenterfield Chapter	This project will restore 60m of Washpool Creek, by fencing 800m, weeding, and planting native vegetation along 600m that will become fish habitat as future snags, provide a source of insects, shade to regulate water temperatures and filter of overland runoff.	\$1,780		
		Total	\$168,973		