

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)
MEETING NO.	Meeting 60
DATE	28 November 2019
LOCATION	Novotel Sydney International Airport, 22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek
ATTENDEES	Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Max Graham (Region 1), Ron Butler (Region 2), Ron Croker (Region 3), Ian Ward (Region 4), Tom Williams (Region 5), Debbie Lennon (Region 6), John Erskine (Region 7), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8), Peter Gibson (NSW CFA), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI).
APOLOGIES	Steve Samuels (RFNSW)

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 59th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded Tom Williams, 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.

6. Project variation – Investigations of nodavirus infections in Australian bass - dollar for dollar (\$4\$) hatcheries

The expenditure committee supported a project variation in relation to the nodavirus testing project for dollar-for-dollar fish hatcheries to use remaining funds in 2019/20 to conduct testing of wild surveillance samples of various freshwater and euryhaline species. These samples will help to fill the current knowledge gap on nodavirus endemicity.

7. Presentations and project updates

RFFTEC received updates on the following projects: fish screening and irrigation diversions in NSW; Gone Fishing Day 2019; fish stocking and hatchery infrastructure; fuel card grants 2019 and the NSW native fish drought response.

8. Review of Habitat Action Grant (HAG) applications

i) An update on progress of previously supported habitat projects was provided.

ii) Following the 2019/20 annual advertising process, a total of 17 freshwater habitat action grant applications were received. The Technical Assessment Panel (TAP) met on 24 October 2019 to consider funding applications. Recommendations arising from the TAP meeting were supported by the Committee (refer to Table 2). Moved Tom Williams, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried.

iii) The Committee requested that screening technology projects should be removed from the habitat action grant funding guidelines and for any future fish screening applications to be considered through the general Recreational Fishing Trust application process. Moved, Kevin McKinnon, Seconded Ian Ward, Carried.

9. Boating Now Program

DPI recently attended a meeting with Transport for NSW, Roads & Maritime Services and local councils to discuss the recently announced third round of the Boating Now Program. Program priorities, funding guidelines and eligibility criteria were discussed.

10. Review of Freshwater Trust grant applications

A total of 27 freshwater applications were received. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration (refer to Table 1).

11. General business

a) Angler access website – Peter Gibson queried the status of development of the angler access website, noting that numerous site information details appeared to require further work. DPI advised that there are over 200,000 potential angler access sites across NSW with many thousands of locations listed on the website. Ongoing ground truthing is being undertaken with current resources. DPI encouraged all anglers to visit sites listed and provide details via the online survey.

b) Manilla and Bingara fish hatcheries – Ian Ward advised that a funding application has been submitted to the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation for employment resources to assist with hatchery operations and increase fish production. The Manilla hatchery is looking to re-activate three disused ponds to store brood stock collected from fish rescues. There is also the potential to store 500-1000 adult fish at the large treated sewage works pond if required.

Table 1. Summary of funding recommendations

Projects SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Extra operational funds for emergency native fish rescue and drought recovery activities: in principal funding support only	NSW DPI	Undertake emergency native fish rescue and recovery operations across the Murray Darling Basin to protect and restore native fish populations impacted by the drought. SUPPORTED for \$180,000 only. Moved: Ian Ward, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried RFFTEC supported funds of \$180,000 for staff resources for 12 months only to boost production to restore fish populations following the drought.	FW \$300,000 (requested) \$180,000 supported	FW \$0	FW \$0
Stocking of Estuary Perch within Brogo, Danjera and Glennies Creek dams	NSW DPI	Continue to stock up to 20,000 Estuary Perch fingerlings within Brogo Dam over the next 2 years and to commence Estuary Perch stockings within Danjera and Glennies Creek Dams (up to 90,000 Estuary Perch fingerlings), to provide anglers with exciting new high quality recreational fishing opportunities. SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried	FW \$0	FW \$25,000	FW \$50,000

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Collarenebri Recreational Fishing Upgrade – Fish Cleaning Station	Collarenebri Fishing Club	Install a custom orb curved roof fish cleaning station with lighting and pressurised water on the Barwon River at Collarenebri adjacent to the newly developed boat ramp and recreational area. SUPPORTED. Moved: John Erskine, Seconded: Ron Butler, Carried	FW \$13,730	FW \$0	FW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Accessible Fishing Platform Lake Wallace	Lithgow City Council	Council propose to install a relocatable floating accessible fishing platform at Lake Wallace, Wallerawang, to enable fishers in wheelchairs or with mobility restrictions to fish at this popular and well stocked fishing waterbody. SUPPORTED for 50% of funding. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Kevin McKinnon, Carried RFFTEC acknowledged the benefit of the project but noted the high cost. The committee recommended that contributing funding be sought from other sources and supported 50% of funding.	FW \$106,123 (requested) \$53,062 supported	FW \$0	FW \$0
Fish Cleaning Table – Copeton Dam	Reflections Holiday Parks	Install a fish cleaning table at Fireball Point, Copeton Dam. SUPPORTED. Moved: Peter Gibson, Seconded: Ron Butler, Carried RFFTEC noted these State parks are now managed by the Reflections Holiday Park.	FW \$9,800	FW \$0	FW \$0
The Mill Pond - A New Public Fishery	Wallerawang branch CAS	Wallerawang CAS was approached by a private company who has offered free access to anglers to the Mill Pond, one of their water storages located at the old Portland cement quarries. DPI Fisheries has negotiated a legal deed of access to the waterbody securing managed public access for anglers to the site. The agreement has some access conditions to ensure public safety and requires installation of some infrastructure. SUPPORTED. Moved: Peter Gibson, Seconded: Ron Butler, Carried	FW \$78,418	FW \$0	FW \$0
Wee Waa Recreational Fishing Upgrade – Fish Cleaning Station	Wee Waa Fishing Club	Install a custom orb curved roof fish cleaning station with lighting and pressurised water on the Namoi River at “Yellowbanks” Wee Waa adjacent to the newly developed boat ramp, recreational and camp area. SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: John Erskine, Carried	FW \$18,800	FW \$0	FW \$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<p>Casting for Recovery - a Weekend Fly Fishing Retreat for Women with Breast Cancer. An ACT regional project with vision of it becoming an Australian National Project with regional branches.</p>	<p>ACT Fly Fishers</p>	<p>Provide a free fly fishing retreat including tuition on a one-to-one basis, weekend accommodation and care for up to 14 women who have breast cancer. SUPPORTED. Moved: Tom Williams, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried</p>	<p>FW \$7,338</p>	<p>FW \$0</p>	<p>FW \$0</p>
<p>Walcha Bowling Club Fishing Club – Kids Fishing Workshop</p>	<p>Walcha Bowling Club Fishing Club</p>	<p>The Club proposes to introduce recreational fishing to the youth of Walcha and surrounding communities by sponsoring children to attend DPI’s kids’ fishing workshops at the Dutton Trout Hatchery where participants will be educated by DPI staff. It is expected that three events each supporting up to 10 children will be held each year for an initial period of two years. SUPPORTED with reduced funding. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Ian Ward, Carried The \$2,400 workshop fee component to be covered by the DPI Fishing Workshops program.</p>	<p>FW \$4,320 (requested) \$1,920 supported</p>	<p>FW \$0</p>	<p>FW \$0</p>

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Evaluation of survival behaviour of fish to inform re-stocking programs for recreational fisheries and conservation of wild fish	Charles Sturt University	To examine the behaviour of larval and juvenile fish to improve survival of recreational and conservation in stocking programs. SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried	FW \$0	FW \$48,883	FW \$0
Research observations of water temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH values on trout waters in the Barrington Tops	The Barrington Club Inc.	Conduct a 3 year program compiling a detailed log of key indices on varying sites in streams and dams on the Barrington Tops, including the Upper Manning, Hunter and Barrington Rivers and their tributaries with a view to confirm suitability for trout stocking for recreational fishing opportunities. SUPPORTED. Moved: Peter Gibson, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried	FW \$3,766	FW \$0	FW \$0

Platform: Fish fee coordination and payment network

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Recreational Fishing Licensing – Government Licensing Service (GLS) fees	Department of Primary Industries/ Department of Customer Service	This project is part of the licensing system that provides for a convenient payment network for the recreational fishing licence and transfer of revenue into the Recreational Fishing Trusts. The payment network system includes an electronic platform run by Service NSW - Government Licensing Service (GLS) for payment of licence fees electronically as well as for backend management of the licence system. This application covers transaction fees payable to GLS on an annual basis. SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried	FW \$225,000 SW \$525,000	FW \$225,000 SW \$525,000	FW \$0 SW \$0

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

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Nutrient enhancement Lake Eucumbene	Cooma Trout Acclimatisation Association	Enhance nutrient levels in Lake Eucumbene by aerial dropping guano (fossilised birdlime) as previously done in 1983. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried RFFTEC noted that an environmental assessment for the project activities had not been completed, including undertaking required consultation with relevant management authorities regarding approvals. Concern was also expressed about the potential impacts of increased nutrient levels downstream of the lake.	FW \$0	FW \$5,719	FW \$0
Purchase of an additional fish transportation vehicle for drought response and hatchery expansion activities	NSW DPI	Purchase a new fish transportation vehicle as part of recovery operations for critical drought response and the expansion of the Narrandera Fisheries Centre Hatchery. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Peter Gibson, Carried RFFTEC noted the funding should be provided from government sources.	FW \$250,000	FW \$0	FW \$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Anglers Reach Boat Ramp	Adaminaby Fishing Club (Sub branch of Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc)	Construct a 70m long by 3m wide all weather concrete boat ramp and gravel parking area at Anglers Reach, Lake Eucumbene. NOT SUPPORTED AT THIS STAGE. Moved: Kevin McKinnon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried RFFTEC noted the applicant should approach the Boating Now Program in the first instance. DPI also to confirm whether there was free public access through the caravan park to the ramp as this was not evident in the application.	FW \$40,900	FW \$0	FW \$0
Swampy Plain River - Angler access and amenities improvement	Khancoban Angling Club	Provide seating and shaded areas for recreational fishers to enjoy the Swampy Plain River below Khancoban Pondage NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Tom Williams, Carried RFFTEC noted the project was for general recreational amenity and not recreational fishing specific.	FW \$8,900	FW \$0	FW \$0
Rocky Waterholes Mooring Pontoon	Narrandera Fishing Club	To install a platform at water level for safe access for the general public for boating and kayak fishing activities at Rocky Waterholes including a fish cleaning table area. The platform will enhance boating access to Bundidgerry Creek and Lake Talbot. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Kevin McKinnon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried RFFTEC noted the pontoon was primarily for boating purposes.	FW \$20,704	FW \$0	FW \$0
Recreational Fishing in the Snowy Monaro – Improved Information and Access	Snowy Monaro Regional Council	Install regional signage and supporting information about recreational fishing in the Snowy Monaro region. Project will elevate awareness of iconic sites and integrates with NSW DPI angler access aims. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Peter Gibson, Seconded: Ian Ward, Carried RFFTEC noted the following issues: many of the fishing sites are already well known, some signage would be located large distances from water, there was lack of agreement from land owners and the Monaro Acclimatisation Society is not supportive of the project.	FW \$32,480	FW \$0	FW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Lake Centenary Pedestrian Footbridges	Temora Shire Council	<p>Construct two pedestrian footbridges at Lake Centenary to provide access to popular fishing spots and remove the need for pedestrians to use the footpath on the Trigalong Creek bridge on Goldfields Way, which is perceived to be a safety risk by some community members, particularly those with small children.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: John Erskine, Carried</p> <p>RFFTEC noted the project was for general recreational amenity and not fishing specific.</p>	FW \$84,285	FW \$0	FW \$0
Accessible Fishing Platform at Bogolong Dam	Weddin Shire Council	<p>Construct a fishing platform at Bogolong Dam that provides access for inclusive participation in recreational fishing.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED AT THIS STAGE. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Ron Butler, Carried</p> <p>RFFTEC recommended the application be resubmitted when the fishery is up and running to show there is a demonstrated need for the infrastructure.</p>	FW \$60,000	FW \$0	FW \$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Traditional Fishing Group	Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council	<p>The project aims to prevent isolation of Aboriginal men with issues relating to disability, mental health and depression, drug and alcohol, domestic violence, loneliness and anti-social factors. Participants will meet with others using fishing and yarning circle talking to engage with other Aboriginal community members which will help break down some of their barriers and enable them to socialise with others in a safe environment whilst fishing together.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Peter Gibson, Seconded: Kevin McKinnon, Carried</p> <p>RFFTEC noted a previous similar project had been supported for funding however the funding deed had not been executed by the applicant. RFFTEC recommended that DPI contact the applicant about status and commencement of the first project before consideration of this second application.</p>	FW \$8,929	FW \$0	FW \$0
Byron Bay Rainforest Kayak Fishing Experience	Go Fish Australia	<p>Go Fish Australia promotes the rich fishing assets of Northern NSW, especially in the mighty rivers and streams of the Tweed, the Clarence and the Byron hinterland. Their new rainforest fishing experiences require the purchase of kayaks and fishing-related equipment purchased.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Peter Gibson, Seconded: Max Graham, , Carried</p> <p>RFFTEC noted the applicant was a commercial enterprise.</p>	FW \$10,000	FW \$0	FW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Oberon Redfin Roundup Learn to Fish Day	Oberon Council	<p>The Oberon Redfin Roundup is a free two day fishing tournament heavily targeted towards families and aimed at reducing the Redfin population in Oberon Dam. This project will see an expansion of the event to attract more young participants and deliver a learn to fish day across three schools prior to the fishing tournament.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Kevin McKinnon, Seconded: Tom Williams, Carried.</p> <p>RFFTEC noted support can be provided by the Fishcare and DPI Tournament Management Programs.</p>	FW \$0	FW \$7,800	FW \$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Who is this new bloke? Assessing the effects of translocations on behaviour and movement of Murray cod	Charles Sturt University	<p>Translocations may affect behaviour, movement and survival of territorial fish like Murray cod. This project will assess potential influence of translocations on resident or translocated fish in the Darling River.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Tom Williams, Seconded: Peter Gibson, Carried</p> <p>RFFTEC noted that the project is unlikely to significantly add to any current recreational fishery monitoring or research programs for native fish.</p>	FW \$659,560	FW \$0	FW \$0
Electronic, Application Based Reporting to Improve Catch Monitoring and in Recreational Fisheries	Deckee Pty Ltd	<p>Independent smartphone app for anglers to log their fishing catches as a way to generate low-cost research data at scale, which can be analysed to help to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries, in conjunction with projects and initiatives run by the OzFish organisation.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried</p> <p>RFFTEC noted there were a number of existing apps with similar functionality.</p>	FW \$108,000 SW \$252,000	FW \$0 SW \$0	FW \$0 SW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Murray Cod weight and Length Measuring	Macquarie Adventures Facebook Group	Catch Murray cod in dams and the Macquarie River between Bathurst and Orange and collect comprehensive data on the growth patterns for future analysis by DPI. This will build on data collected since 2015 and assist with updates on pest species and water conditions. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Max Graham, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried RFFTEC noted there should be research input and guidance from an appropriate research organisation. Support can also be provided through the DPI Tournament Management program.	FW \$2,000	FW \$0	FW \$0
Far South Coast European Carp Monitoring and Control Program 2020 - 2022	South East Local Land Services	Pilot a monitoring and control program for European Carp in Bega River and Brogo Dam identifying suitable control methods for long term effective pest management and reducing impact on native fish populations and recreational fishing values. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Peter Gibson, Carried RFFTEC noted the existing National Carp Control Program underway and that outcomes should be delivered through the existing national program initially.	FW \$63,500	FW \$0	FW \$0
Future-proofing recreational fisheries: identifying biomarkers for thermal resilience in Australian recreational fish species	The University of Sydney	Use sophisticated molecular genetic tools to identify patterns of gene expression that are associated with thermal stress in recreational fish species to improve breeding and restocking programs. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Ian Ward, Carried RFFTEC acknowledged the direct benefits to recreational fishing may be limited and suggested that contributing funding from other sources may be warranted e.g. Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.	FW \$394,445	FW \$0	FW \$0

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

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

ID	Project	Organisation	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
F1	Macdonald River Restoration, Bendemeer Removing black willows and privet and revegetating with native trees and grasses to enhance the opportunity for recreational fishers to access the river and improve the fish habitat.	Macdonald River Restoration Group	FW \$38,941	FW \$0	FW \$0
F3	North Riverdale Riverbank Rehabilitation, Macdonald River, Retreat This project will exclude stock, control weed species, revegetate river banks and encourage natural regeneration of native plant species. These activities combined will improve the available habitat to native fish species in the area ensuring the health and survival of multiple fish species.	Private landholder	FW \$11,190	FW \$0	FW \$0
F5	Trangie – Nevertire of Saving Fish – Exclusion Screen, Macquarie River Custom design, manufacture, supply and installation of self-cleaning fish and debris diversion screen for Trangie-Nevertire Scheme Stock & Domestic pump to prevent entrainment of native fish.	Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association	FW \$20,000	FW \$0	FW \$0
F6	Invasive Weed Control - Peel River Stage 2 'Junction to Junction' The planned works will continue on from previously rehabilitated areas and will continue along the Peel River, targeting Willows and undertaking revegetation using semi aquatic and riparian plant species. Combined these activities will improve the quality of available habitat for native fish.	Tamworth Regional Landcare Association	FW \$34,824	FW \$0	FW \$0
F9	More Fish for Forbes, Lachlan River Revegetation at key sites along the Lachlan River, by removing the current introduced species, date palms and undertaking one native revegetation event.	Ozfish, Unlimited/Forbes	FW \$18,820	FW \$0	FW \$0
F12	Trelawney Riparian Zone Rehabilitation Stage 1 - Peel River The Trelawney Station Project will undertake habitat restoration and bank stabilisation through extensive native plantings, covering a 1.5 km stretch of the Peel River, and covering an area up to 40 metres from the centre of the river.	Tamworth Local Aboriginal land Council	FW \$30,880	FW \$0	FW \$0
F16	Zootopia – Taronga Western Plains Zoo Fish Exclusion Screen, Macquarie River Custom design, manufacture, supply and installation of self-cleaning fish and debris diversion screen for Taronga Western Plains Zoo to prevent entrainment of native fish.	Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association	FW \$40,000	FW \$0	FW \$0

ID	Project	Organisation	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
FS1	<p>Duckmaloi River Bankside Native Revegetation The Duckmaloi River is a premier trout stream, this project, on private land, will seek to revegetate the Duckmaloi river banks with native species thus increasing biodiversity around the river, leading to a healthier river ecosystem.</p>	Private landholder	FW \$1,500	FW \$0	FW \$0
FS2	<p>Upper Castlereagh River, Exotic Vegetation Removal – Stage 3 To further improve native fish habitat by continuing to control willows, honey locust, privet and other tree weed species growing in and adjacent to the upper Castlereagh River near Coonabarabran.</p>	Coonabarabran Landcare Inc.	FW \$2,000	FW \$0	FW \$0