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| MEETING     | Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)  |
| MEETING NO. | Meeting 55  |
| DATE & TIME | 16 November 2017, 9.00am – 2.00pm   |
| LOCATION    | St George Rowers Club, 1 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), Steve Samuels (RFA NSW), Peter Gibson (NSW CFA) |
| APOLOGIES   | Peter Turnell (DPI), Kevin McKinnon (Region 8).   |

### 1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

### 2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 54th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting Moved Max Graham, Seconded Tom Williams, Carried.

### 3. Action items from previous meeting

The Committee noted the progress on action items from the previous meeting.

### 4. Recreational Fishing Trust update

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members.

### 5. Review of Freshwater Trust grant applications

A total of 3 freshwater applications were received. Expenditure recommendations are provided in Tables 2 and 3. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration. RFFTEC supported a project variation for a previously funded project "Oberon Dam disabled fishing canoe/kayak launching ramp and reserve access upgrade" to fund the \$3,150 Kellys Lane upgrade component only, as the disabled fishing canoe/kayak launching ramp has not been able to progress due to a previous Council amalgamation process. Moved Tom Williams, Seconded Ron Croker, Carried.

### 6. Habitat Action Grants

a) An update on previously supported habitat projects and the status of the Habitat Action Grants program was presented to RFFTEC by DPI

b) A total of 16 freshwater habitat action grant applications were received. The Technical Assessment Panel (TAP) met in October to consider the applications and provided recommendations for consideration by RFFTEC. 8 projects are recommended for funding (all large grants).

Following the TAP meeting the applicant from the previously supported project "Iron Cove riverbank stabilisation and creation of saltmarsh habitat" cancelled the grant offer (details below). RFFTEC supported a reallocation of \$48,750 of unspent grant funds from earlier projects to this round and supported the recommendation for funding of the 8 projects listed in table 4. Moved Max Graham, Seconded Ron Croker, Carried.

### 7. Presentations

NSW DPI provided presentations to RFFTEC on the following programs:

- a) Fishcare, Get hooked...its fun to fish schools program and fishing workshops
- b) Sustainable irrigation manufacturing - pump diversion screening technology
- c) Gone Fishing Day 2017

### 8. Next meeting

14-15 March 2018

## 9. Action items

**Table 1 – Action Items**

| <b>Action</b>  | <b>Status</b> |
|--|---------------|
| Investigate operational status of Yarrawonga weir to determine if the fishway provides both upstream and downstream fish passage         | Completed     |
| DPI to work with Oberon Shire Council to develop a revised disabled fishing facilities proposal for Oberon Dam for future consideration. | Underway      |

10. Project assessment recommendations

Table 3 - Projects SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

**Research on fish and recreational fishing**

| Project Title  | Organisation             | Project Summary  | 2018/19   | 2019/20   | 2020/21   | 2021/22   | 2022/23   |
|--|--------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Screens for Streams: Boosting native fish stocks through improved water extraction practices | Charles Sturt University | Will showcase effectiveness of innovative fish screens on irrigation pumps at selected sites across NSW and will facilitate broad-scale uptake of fish screening technologies on irrigation infrastructure across the MDB, to prevent large scale fish losses from water extraction practices. Supported: Moved Ian Ward, Seconded Steve Samuels, Carried. | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |

**Fishing access and facilities**

| Project Title                            | Organisation                                 | Project Summary  | 2017/18  |
|--|--|--|----------|
| Chaffey Dam Recreational Fishing Upgrade | Bowling Alley Point Recreation Reserve Trust | To install a Custom Orb Curved Roof 4 person fish cleaning station with lighting and gravity fed water at Chaffey Dam Recreational area adjacent to the new boat ramp. Supported: Moved Peter Gibson Seconded Max Graham, Carried. | \$17,380 |

**Recreational fishing education**

| Project Title             | Organisation | Project Summary  | 2017/18  |
|---------------------------|--------------|--|----------|
| NSW Gone Fishing Day 2018 | DPI          | The 2017 NSW Gone Fishing Day was a great success with 20,000 people attending 6 DPI events across NSW with thousands more attending the 42 fishing club events from Evans Head to Eden and out to Broken Hill. It is proposed to run the 4 <sup>th</sup> Gone Fishing Day in 2018. The day will continue to promote the importance of recreational fishing as a healthy, fun, outdoors activity. The NSW event has grown significantly and early planning of the many coordinated fishing activities, engagement of partners and fishing club involvement in the grant EOI process is required. Supported: Moved Ian Ward Seconded Ron Butler, Carried. | \$78,000 |

**Table 4 – Freshwater Habitat Action Grant projects SUPPORTED for funding from the Technical Assessment Panel & RFFTEC**

| Project Title   | Organisation                              | Project Summary   | 2017/18                                       |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reinstating structural woody habitat in the lower Darling River | Western Local Land Services               | A strategic and targeted re-snagging project taking place in the lower Darling River (south of Pooncarie). The project will improve habitat for large bodied native species, particularly during low-flow periods by installing a minimum of 20 snags.                          | \$35,000                                      |
| More big wood for Macquarie native fish                         | Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association | Installation of a minimum of 60 Large Woody Habitats (LWHs) in the Macquarie River at locations between Dubbo and Warren identified through habitat mapping to be deficient.  | \$32,750                                      |
| Comfortable cod for Cowra                                       | Central Tablelands Local Lands Services   | Improve the condition of the Upper Lachlan River through addition of 11 snag and rock groynes to create pools and homes for Murray Cod.   | \$17,595                                      |
| Upper Castlereagh River exotic vegetation removal - Stage 2     | Coonabarabran Landcare Inc.               | To further improve native fish habitat by continuing to control willows, honey locusts, privet and other tree weed species growing over a 5km reach in and adjacent to the upper Castlereagh River near Coonabarabran.  | \$7,375                                       |
| Peel River and Dungowan Creek Madeira vine control              | Tamworth Regional Council                 | Will coordinate a biological & chemical program to control Madeira Vine along the Peel River & Dungowan Creek to improve fish habitat and access for recreational fishing from Ogunbil to Oxley Vale, Tamworth. (57km original area)  | \$12,890<br>(reduced from \$40,000 requested) |
| Rivers of Carbon Upper Murrumbidgee- community willow control   | The Australian River Restoration Centre   | Working with the community to control scattered willows along 16km of the Upper Murrumbidgee River within the NSW section of the Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach.  | \$23,815                                      |
| More snags equals more fish in the lower Murray                 | Sunraysia OzFish                          | Restore fish habitat by installing 15 snags in the Murray River at Monak, upstream of Mildura.  | \$19,325<br>(reduced from \$26,025 requested) |
| Ramping up fish passage in the Buckinbah                        | Cabonne Council                           | Installation of a suitably designed partial or full width rock-ramp fishway at Buckinbah Creek Weir to improve fish access to 35km stream length under a collaborative arrangement with Cabonne Council, Little River Landcare and NSW DPI – Fisheries and Environmental Trust. | \$40,000                                      |