

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)		
MEETING NO.	Meeting 61	DATE	14 May 2020
LOCATION	Videoconference	TIME	9:30 – 12:00
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) and Peter Turnell (NSW DPI).		

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Paul Mullen.

3. Members Introductions

New and re-appointed members were welcomed to the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee. Members introduced themselves to the Committee and gave a brief summary of their background.

4. Operation of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and role of the committee

DPI provided details on the role of the Committee, operating procedures including the code of conduct and the proposed meeting schedule.

5. Register of interests

The Committee was advised that DPI maintains a register of member interests and members are provided the opportunity at each meeting to update the register.

6. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 60th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Ron Croker, Carried.

7. Action items from previous meeting

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

8. Recreational Fishing Trust items

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members.

a) Review of new Freshwater grant applications

A total of 8 saltwater applications were received and reviewed by the Committee. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration.

b) Appointment of RFFTEC representatives on Fish Habitat Technical Assessment Panel, Fuel Cards Evaluation Panel and Gaden hatchery Management Advisory Committee

An EOI for appointment to the above panels and committee will be forwarded to RFFTEC members following the meeting.

The committee supported a continuation of the Fuel Cards Grant program and to broaden the subsidy to include other projects which benefit recreational fisheries e.g. fish rescue / relocations, river clean-ups, citizen science projects etc.

c) Estuary perch stocking project

The committee supported a variation to the Estuary Perch stocking program to produce and stock the fish in one batch using contributing funds from both financial years.

d) Investigations of Nodavirus project

The committee supported a variation to the investigations of nodavirus infections in Australian bass project to reallocate any unspent project funds during 2020/21 towards testing of wild fish.

8. General business

The committee requested an update on proposed stocking plans in the future. DPI advised that a comprehensive fish stocking plan had been developed for restocking native species in areas previously affected by drought and bushfires.

Table 1. Summary of funding recommendations

Projects SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
Manilla Native Fish Hatchery structure and operations	Manilla Fishing Hatchery Inc	To provide operational funding support for the not-for-profit Manilla Native Fish Hatchery to enable golden perch breeding and stocking into local public waterways to continue. The hatchery is run by community volunteers. SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried.	FW \$9,700	

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
Driving Fish Habitat Action with a Landcare NSW/OzFish Unlimited community partnership – Years 2 and 3	OzFish Unlimited	This project involves Ozfish working with Local Landcare Coordinators to develop and facilitate priority fish habitat rehabilitation projects throughout NSW. The first phase of the project in 2019/20 saw the development of 15 habitat restoration projects during the first 12 months. Funding is now sought for year 2 and 3 so that 60 fish habitat restoration sites can be established by OzFish and Landcare combining resources across NSW. The project will build a network of skilled volunteers to continue the work well into the future. The project complements the DPI Habitat Action Grants program (although there is no overlap between projects). SUPPORTED. Moved: Karl Mathers, Seconded: Troy Bright, Carried. Condition: The applicant should implement an equivalent to the technical assessment panel used by the Habitat Action Grants Program to enable recreational fishing stakeholder input to the project. The project should also increase promotion of relevant funding sources, including the Recreational Fishing Trusts.	FW \$84,700 SW \$105,050	FW \$131,000 SW \$174,500

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
NSW Fish Passage Strategy – Finalise Phase 1 Development	NSW DPI	<p>The NSW Fish Passage Strategy is a coordinated 20-year plan to proactively restore unimpeded fish passage to 165 high priority weirs, which will significantly improve native fish access to 8,885 km of mainstem rivers and key off-channel habitats below all major storage dams in the State. This will significantly improve native fish populations and recreational fishing opportunities. This stage of the project will finalise development and secure funding for fish passage remediation at 47 of the highest priority sites in NSW.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Ron Butler, Carried.</p>	FW \$90,612 SW \$90,612	

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
Convene a 'Screens for Streams' stakeholder forum to investigate options and pathways for adoption of fish screening technology	NSW DPI (on behalf of RFNSW)	<p>This project involves convening a stakeholder forum to provide an opportunity for knowledge and ideas exchange between local irrigation districts, water managers, the broader scientific and engineering communities and other regional stakeholder communities, including recreational fishing groups. The inclusive forum will discuss and investigate options and potential pathways on how best to promote adoption of fish screening technology across the wide range of gravity and pumped irrigation, urban and industrial offtakes. Key organisation contacts would include WaterNSW, Cotton Australia, the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Environment, Energy and Science (formerly OEH), Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water, Fisheries Research Development Corporation and other relevant groups.</p> <p>Following the forum, an implementation and options strategy will be developed for fish screening initiatives in partnership with industry, which will have demonstrable benefits to native fish stocks but also screening outcomes for irrigators.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Max Graham, Seconded: Troy Bright, Carried.</p>	FW \$148,000	

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
Gone Fishing Day 2020	NSW DPI	<p>Five annual NSW Gone Fishing Days have now been held and last year, over 20,000 people attended over 50 DPI and fishing club events across NSW. The Day is all about promoting fishing as a fun, healthy, outdoors fishing activity for the whole family. Funding grants or fishing packages are made available to fishing clubs to hold events in regional NSW while our DPI Fishcare Program hosts six major events across NSW. The DPI events have a wide of range of fun activities with many other partner organisations attending the events. The national date for Gone Fishing Day has been set for 18 October.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Ron Butler, Carried. Condition: DPI to monitor COVID-19 social distancing rules in relation to the proposed October date and plan accordingly.</p>	FW \$40,000 SW \$100,000	

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
Citizen science fish monitoring at Leeton Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition	OzFish Unlimited – T/A Leeton Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition - MIA	<p>The project involves anglers measuring, photographing and recording Murray Cod and Golden Perch caught during the Leeton Bidgee Classic catch and release fishing event held on the Murrumbidgee River above Gogeldrie Weir. The data is provided to DPI Fisheries scientists for monitoring fish stocks. The funds will support purchase of receivers and boosters as well as incentives for catch and release reporting.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Butler, Seconded: Michael Davey, Carried. Condition: All booster equipment purchased from the grant to be stored safely at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre.</p>	FW \$9,900	

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

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
Recreational anglers taking charge in the clean up of reserves	OzFish Unlimited and Wagga OzFish	<p>Wagga OzFish is proposing to organize and run a clean-up rubbish event. The clean-up event will involve collecting rubbish from the Murrumbidgee River and local reserves and creating a communication plan to assist with the reduction of waste dumping.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED AT THIS STAGE. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried. While the merit of the application was noted, RFFTEC had concerns about the budget details and recommended that the applicant contacts Clean Up Australia regarding event resourcing, safety and disposal of collected waste, and to contact DPI to discuss suitability of the project for the fuel cards program and for assistance with signage.</p>	FW \$6,000	

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21	2021/22
Installing sustainable fishing signage and line-tangle bin at the Nyah boat ramp	OzFish Unlimited and Nyah West OzFish	<p>Nyah OzFish Chapter have noticed poor sustainable fishing practices from the local fishers in their area, such as taking undersized native fish, fishing litter and poor handling techniques. To assist in their mission to have sustainably minded fishers in their local area, the club is proposing erection of signage informing anglers of sustainable fishing practices and a dedicated line-disposal bin.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded: Peter Johnson, Carried. While the merit of the application was noted, RFFTEC had concerns about the budget details. RFFTEC recommended that the applicant liaises with DPI who can provide and erect fishing rules and responsible fishing signage using an existing sign design template (at no cost to the applicant).</p>	FW \$9,500	