



MEETING	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC)
MEETING NO.	Meeting 59
DATE	31 January 2019
LOCATION	St George Rowers Club, 1 Levey Street, Wollie 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)

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 58th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Steve Samuels, Seconded Ron Butler, 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

A summary of Freshwater Trust grant applications received since the last meeting were provided in the meeting agenda. Funding recommendations with respect to freshwater applications are provided in Table 1.

7. Presentations and project updates

NSW DPI provided presentations to RFFTEC on the following programs:

a) Freshwater Research – discussed monitoring results for Murray Cod within the Murray Darling Basin pre and post introduction of the maximum size slot limit; recruitment and movement of eel-tailed catfish within the Gwdyir and Mehi River systems following fish translocations; breeding and recruitment of Murray Cod within the Dumaresq River catchment and impacts of the Clarence River Gorge on migration of Australian bass within the Clarence River catchment.

b) Recreational fishing access – discussed progress of assessment of road closures and reserve referrals and web based interactive mapping of angler access sites. A case study of fishing activity at Thompsons Creek Dam was presented showing numbers of anglers, angler visitation times and fishing methods.

c) Fisheries compliance – discussed fisheries compliance activities throughout the State including information on: fishers checked; number of offences; seized gear; offence “hot spots”, restaurant / processor inspections and media and advisory events. A case study on the development of a new Fisheries Facebook Messenger “Chatbot” was provided. The “Chatbot” uses artificial intelligence to automatically deliver an instant response to enquiries on fisheries related matters.

8. General business

Mr Kevin McKinnon submitted a report on proceedings of the 2018 International Conference on River Connectivity, held in Albury between the 10th and 14th of December 2018. The conference discussed advancements in fishways technologies and environmental and socio-economic issues around projects that use fish passages to re-connect river habitats.

DPI distributed a report on the Lower Darling River fish death event. In recent weeks significant fish kills had occurred in the Namoi River below Keepit Dam; the Lachlan River at Wyangala Dam and the Darling River at Menindee. There had also been some broodstock losses at the Gaden trout hatchery. Very low river flows combined with algal blooms, low dissolved oxygen and changes in weather events have been linked to the fish mortalities. Otoliths have been extracted from some deceased Murray Cod to improve knowledge of the species. Solar powered aerators have been installed to help increase oxygen levels in localised areas. Fish rescue and recovery operations are planned in the Menindee Lakes system below Weir 32.

A risk assessment on recreational fishing access to Sydney impoundments has been finalised for consideration by the Minister. The risk assessment proposes a range of options for controlled recreational fishing access to various Sydney impoundments.

DPI did not receive any applications from inland commercial hatcheries this year to supply fish for the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program. As a result, staff from the Narrandera Fisheries Centre conducted consolidated stockings in inland river reaches in conjunction with stocking groups, to offset the dollar for dollar program shortfall. Additional staff were appointed to assist with fish breeding and transport / stocking of fish from Narrandera.

9. Next meeting

Thursday 3 August 2019.

Table 1. Summary of RFFTEC funding recommendations

Projects SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
Bogan Shire Council - Fish Cleaning Table set up	Bogan Shire Council	Provide a two person, stainless steel fish cleaning table with roof for protection from weather elements adjacent to the Bogan River in Nyngan. SUPPORTED. Moved: Kevin McKinnon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.	\$9,500	
Khancoban Dam Boat Ramp - Fish Cleaning Table	Khancoban Angling Club	Provide fish cleaning facilities at the Khancoban Dam Boat Ramp. SUPPORTED. Moved: Steve Samuels, Seconded: Tom Williams, Carried.	\$8,300	
Bogolong Dam Project	Weddin Shire Council	This Project will see the construction of a graded access road, construction of a boat ramp, basic signage and a toilet cubicle on the Bogolong Dam site. The toilets will provide universal access in keeping with AS1428. SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried. RFFTEC supported funding for the fish cleaning table only noting the toilet would be for general public amenity.	\$15,000	

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
Open top pyramid / opera house yabby trap replacement scheme	NSW DPI Fisheries	Purchase around 10,000 open top pyramid (kalkyne) traps to replace opera house traps handed in by the public over a 24 month period. The open top pyramid yabby trap will supersede the opera house yabby trap, which will become prohibited for use, to protect platypus and other wildlife from inadvertent capture. SUPPORTED. Moved: Ian Ward, Seconded: Ron Croker, Carried.	\$50,000	

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
Revealing the emergence of fish viruses in Australia	Macquarie University	Innovative meta-transcriptomics will characterise fish viruses across the Murray-Darling to: (i) determine virus host-jumping between native and invasive fish, (ii) reveal virus-host co-evolution, (iii) assess the safety of virus biocontrol. SUPPORTED. Moved: Ron Croker, Seconded Ron Butler, Carried. Condition: that consultation occurs between the applicant and experts on the Carp virus regarding this project.	\$9,900	

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
Robust resource assessment and stock enhancement for the iconic Murray Crayfish recreational fishery	Nature Glenelg Trust	The project will provide (a) targeted and benchmarking monitoring to allow robust resource assessment and (b) consolidation of stock enhancement for this important recreational fishery. SUPPORTED. Moved: Max Graham, Seconded Debbie Lennon: Ron Croker, Carried.	\$48,000	\$136,000

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
NSW Gone Fishing Day 2019 – promoting fishing as a healthy, fun, outdoors activity	NSW DPI - Fisheries	The 2018 NSW Gone Fishing Day was another outstanding success, even with the wet weather across the State with thousands of attending the six DPI events across NSW and many more attending the 60 fishing club events. It is proposed to again align the 5 th Gone Fishing Day in conjunction with the National Day on the 20 th October 2019. The day will recognise and 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, including fishing club involvement in the grant EOI process, is required, as this will commence in April 2019. SUPPORTED. Moved: Ian Ward, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried.	FW \$70,000 SW \$190,000	

Projects NOT SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
Danthonia School Silver Perch fish rearing dam	Danthonia Community	A farm dam, netted for bird protection, to rear Silver Perch from fingerlings to 300 mm to stock in recreational dams, for educational purposes and to improve recreational fishing opportunities in the locality. NOT SUPPORTED AT THIS STAGE. Moved: Tom Williams, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried. RFFTEC noted that DPI would not permit the school to stock into publicly accessible recreational dams due to hatchery silver perch breeding and stocking requirements. DPI to provide advice to the School on the best way forward to achieve similar outcomes without stocking e.g. eating the fish produced.	\$7,187	

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
Re stocking fish into the Macquarie River	Wiradjuri Wellington Aboriginal Town Common	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. Moved: Tom Williams, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried. RFFTEC noted that DPI would not permit the school to stock into the Macquarie River due to hatchery Murray cod breeding and stocking requirements. DPI to provide advice to the school on the best way forward to achieve similar outcomes without stocking e.g. utilising the fish produced.	\$10,000	

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
An economic valuation of NSW Recreational Fisheries	Heagney Allman P/L	We will apply formal non-market valuation techniques to the results of the NSW Recreational Fishing Survey to produce a robust and defensible estimate of the economic value of NSW recreational fisheries. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Tom Williams, Carried. RFFTEC noted that a previous economic survey had provided relevant information on economic output of recreational fishing, which was being widely used by government and NGOs and is still valid.	FW \$26,400 SW \$61,600	

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
Let's Go Fishing - Cumberland	Cumberland Council	An introductory fishing programme for new migrant communities and school age children operated as part of a Council run school holiday programme. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Max Graham, Carried. RFFTEC recommended that the applicant be referred to the existing DPI Fishing Workshops Program to determine if the project activities can get included in that program.	\$7,700	

Platform: Recreational fishing education

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Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2019/20	2020/21
Junior Angler Education and Encouragement	Deniliquin RSL Fishing Club	To encourage junior anglers to fish and use appropriate catch and release methods to ensure sustainability of fish stocks in our waterways. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Steve Samuels, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried. RFFTEC recommended that the applicant contact the DPI Tournament Management Program and the DPI Fishing Workshops Program to determine if those programs can provide assistance to the project. There is also opportunity for the Club to apply for a Gone Fishing Day grant.	\$3,000	
General Introduction to Fishing for Children incorporating Catch a Carp day	Macarthur District Social Fishing Association Incorporated \ Macarthur FC	A project aimed at providing a fun, educational introduction to the benefits of fishing and water safety awareness whilst demonstrating the impacts of introduced fish species and the benefits of removing aquatic pests from waterways. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Debbie Lennon, Seconded: Steve Samuels, Carried. RFFTEC recommended that the applicant apply for funding under the Gone Fishing Day grants.	\$10,000	
School and Community Sustainable Fishing Education program	Petaurus Education Group Inc.	This project will inspire students (through excursions to Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre) and the community. NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Ian Ward, Seconded: Debbie Lennon, Carried. RFFTEC noted there appeared to be overlap with the existing Get Hooked Program and recommended that the applicant contact the Get Hooked Program to discuss partnership opportunities.	\$25,210	