

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee
Outcomes – Meeting 24, 6-7 April 2006

Apologies

No apologies were recorded.

Confirmation of minutes from previous RFFTEC meeting

The draft minutes of the 24th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting pending the following corrections requested by Kevin McKinnon relating to the acknowledgment of work performed on the Fish Stocking Fisheries Management Strategy on page 27 and Rodney Tonkin (assessment of golden gully road closures) on page 15. Moved: Brian Hale. Seconded: Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

1. 2005/06 Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust status report

The Saltwater Committee recommended that funding of \$3,000,000 be provided from the Recreational Fishing Fees to the Freshwater Trust for allocation to freshwater programs in 2006/07.

The Committee noted that the NSW DPI sponsorship policy had been approved. This was supported by the Freshwater Committee. Programs identified for sponsorship include the Fishcare program, fishing workshops and the licence reminder notice (renewal). A synopsis on trust fund sponsorship is being prepared and expert advice will be sought.

2. Review of applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs

Programs Supported

The Committee supported funding of \$335,000 in 2006/07 for the **Enhanced Fish Production Program**. Moved: Brian Hale. Seconded: Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$230,000 in 2006/07 for the **Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program**. Moved: Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: Richard Ping Kee. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$166,000 in 2006/07, \$166,000 in 2007/08, and \$166,000 in 2008/09 for the **Freshwater Recreational Management Program**. Moved: Debbie Lennon. Seconded: Rodney Tonkin. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$625,000 in 2006/07 for the **6 Inland Fisheries Officers Program**. Moved: Robert Bell. Seconded: Rodney Tonkin. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$60,000 in 2006/07 for the **Small Grants Program**. Moved: Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: Ian Ward. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$160,810 in 2006/07 for the **Effectiveness of stocking program**. Moved: Rodney Tonkin. Seconded: Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$304,990 in 2006/07 for the **Regional Fish Habitat (inland) program**. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Richard Ping Kee. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$25,000 in 2006/07 for **RFFTEC meeting expenses**. **Moved:** Brian Hale. **Seconded:** Max Graham. **Carried.**

The Committee noted funding of \$62,000 in 2006/07 for the **Rivers Access Program** had been previously approved until January 2007. No additional funding is requested for this program at this time.

Action item

NSW DPI to investigate variations in DPI cost recovery levels for Trust funded programs and to make budget adjustments where required – Action NSW DPI.

3. Review of joint Trust applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs

Programs Supported

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$300,000 and \$700,000 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Recreational Fishing Fee Administration Program**. **Moved:** Graham Harrison. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees re-iterated support for funding of \$90,000 and \$210,000 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for **Contingency Funds for the improved Recreational Fishing Fee administration system** (previously supported for 2005/06). **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$15,000 and \$35,000 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Recreational Fishing Awareness Raising Program**. **Moved:** Graham Harrison. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$31,342 and \$71,037 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Fishing Workshops Program**. **Moved:** Doug Joyner. **Seconded:** Lionel Jones. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$40,000 and \$100,000 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Recreational Fishing Guides Program**. **Moved:** Graham Harrison. **Seconded:** Doug Joyner. **Carried.** The guides should not be printed until the 2006 review of NSW fishing rules (including bag and size limits) has been completed.

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$186,956 and \$631,736 in 2006/07, \$175,801 and \$612,701 in 2007/08, \$175,771 and \$620,201 in 2008/09 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Fishcare Volunteers Program**. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. **Seconded:** Rodney Tonkin. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$200,000 and \$200,000 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Fish Habitat Restoration Grants Program**. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Amanda Hill. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$27,000 and \$63,000 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Recreational Angling Database Program**. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$49,200 and \$114,800 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Recreational Licence Reminder Notice Program**. **Moved:** Graham Harrison. **Seconded:** Brian Hale. **Carried.**

Action item

The Committees requested that the tenure for Education Officers employed under the Fishcare Volunteer Program be increased to 3 years to reduce staff turnover.

Moved: Doug Joyner. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Carried.** – Action NSW DPI

4. Review of new freshwater applications

a) Large grants

Programs Supported

The Committee supported funding of \$19,000 in 2006/07 for a **Community accessible fishing deck, Gosling Creek Reservoir, Orange**. **Moved:** Ian Ward. **Seconded:** Max Graham. **Carried.** Mr Rodney Tonkin left the room during debate and voting on this application.

The Committee supported funding of \$20,850 in 2006/07 for **Fishing Places, Fishing People – fishing platforms, measuring stations and advisory signs, Brewarrina**. **Moved:** Richard Ping Kee. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$175,572 in 2006/07 \$160,339 in 2007/08 and \$11,995 in 2008/09 for **Quantifying and improving the survival of fish caught and released**. **Moved:** Max Graham. **Seconded:** Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$138,000 in 2006/07 for **the redevelopment of the hatchery facility, Gaden Trout Hatchery**. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$52,553 in 2006/07 for **Installation of a Recirculation Unit, Dutton trout hatchery**. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$16,200 in 2006/07, \$17,010 in 2007/08 and \$17,861 in 2008/09 for **Investigations of Nodavirus infections in Australian bass**. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Max Graham. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$29,200 in 2006/07 and \$5,725 in 2007/08 from both the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts for the **Habitat utilisation, movement and distribution information required for a plan to control banded grunter in the Clarence River program**. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$40,000 and \$93,500 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Recreational Fishing Tournament Management Program**. The proposed fishing tournament code of conduct should be implemented on a voluntary basis. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** John Burgess. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$82,700 in 2006/07 from both the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts for the **Recreational Fishing Tournament Assessment Project**. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Carried.**

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees supported funding of \$9,000 and \$21,000 in 2006/07 from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts respectively for the **Recreational Fishing Trusts Promotional DVD**. **Moved:** Graham Harrison. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Carried.**

Programs Not Supported

The Committee did not support funding for the community accessible fishing deck, Sydney International Regatta Centre. It was requested that the budget for the pontoons be clarified and that the application should be re-submitted to the Trust in the approved format. **Moved:** Brian Hale. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$11,706 for the **Equipment for restocking local waterways for public fishing**. NSW DPI advised that staff from the Gaden Trout Hatchery can arrange for a fish transporter to be provided and can assist with fish deliveries in this area if required. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

b) Small grants

Programs Supported

The Committee supported funding of \$5,000 for a **Fish cleaning table and measuring station at Lake Keepit State Park**. **Moved:** Richard Ping Kee. **Seconded:** Ian Ward. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$3,000 for the **Urana Aquatic Centre Fishing Enhancement Project**. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Robert Bell. **Carried.**

Programs Not Supported

The Committee did not support funding of \$1,550 for the **Installation of advisory signs on the Lachlan and Belubula Rivers, Canowindra**. It was requested that the application should be re-submitted with more details on the design of the sign, areas of installation, private property access arrangements and letters of support from private landholders. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon **Seconded:** Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$4,850 for the **Fly-fishing for Murray cod DVD**. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon **Seconded:** Robert Bell. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Mathews recreation areas beautification and grounds management, western foreshore Lake Keepit program, Lake Keepit**. It was requested that the application be re-submitted with more details on the liability, ongoing maintenance, ownership and a revised budget. **Moved:** Richard Ping Kee **Seconded:** Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$6,000 - \$8,000 for the **Stabilisation of banks surrounding Manilla Fish hatchery pump site, Manilla**. It was requested that the application be re-submitted with more details on the budget by the Tamworth City Council. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon **Seconded:** Brian Hale. **Carried.** Mr Ian Ward left the room during debate and voting on this application.

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Boorowa River Species Sampling Project, Boorowa**. **Moved:** Robert Bell **Seconded:** Ian Ward. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$1,511 for **Improved promotion of recreational fishing at Four Post Reserve, Deniliquin**. **Moved:** Robert Bell **Seconded:** Brian Hale. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Teenagers Freshwater Fly Fishing Camp**. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin **Seconded:** Max Graham. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding for the **Records of fish caught and released in the Cudgegong River, Gulgong program**. There was no budget provided in the application. **Moved:** Richard Ping Kee **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Natural history of Murray cod project**. **Moved:** Robert Bell **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Influence of gonad maturation on embryonic survival and developmental deformities in Murray cod program**. **Moved:** Kevin Robert Bell **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for a **unified approach to Australian freshwater fish pre spawning and spawning behaviour project**. **Moved:** Robert Bell **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for an **explanation of the abdominal dropsy and its role in the unexplained deaths of aquarium and wild fish kills project**. Moved: Robert Bell Seconded: Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Impact of water quality fluctuations on the reproductive success of fish project**. Moved: Robert Bell Seconded: Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Hybrids in native freshwater fish – how, why and where program**. Moved: Kevin Robert Bell Seconded: Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **influence of early maturation on natural life expectancy of native freshwater fish project**. Moved: Robert Bell Seconded: Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Fish gonad maturation and resorption – do we understand what is involved program**. Moved: Robert Bell Seconded: Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **relationship between migratory waterfowl and recruitment of fish to distant water bodies project**. Moved: Robert Bell Seconded: Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Impact of water quality fluctuations on aquatic organisms project**. Moved: Robert Bell Seconded: Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **life history of eel tailed catfish project**. Moved: Robert Bell Seconded: Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding for the **Release the fish take home story**. There was no budget provided in the application. Moved: Robert Bell Seconded: Ian Ward. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$4,500 for the **Lake Oberon information and environmental signage program**. Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Max Graham. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Fish recording station for protection of Darling River Hardyhead**. Further clarification on the fish measuring station component of the program is required. Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.** Richard Ping Kee abstained from voting on this proposal.

The Committee did not support funding of \$2,618 for the **Access - build a bridge and get over it project**. It was requested that the application should be re-submitted with more details on the design, areas of installation, private property access arrangements and public liability insurance. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$5,000 for the **Rudy Goes Fishing DVD**.
Moved: Karl Schaerf **Seconded:** Rodney Tonkin. **Carried.**

5. Project updates

Project updates on tracking fish associations through structural woody habitat, stocking success research and survey of the distribution of threatened frog species in the Styx River catchment were presented and discussed at the meeting.

6. 2006/07 Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust budget

Proposed budgets in 2006/07 and beyond were evaluated against carryover funding and new income available for expenditure. The Committee supported proposed budgets for programs listed above.

7. Annual/Progress Reports

Annual and progress reports were presented to the Committee and discussed at the meeting.

8. General Business

Boat Ramp Funding Applications

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees agreed that boat ramp funding applications might be considered by RFSTEC/RFFTEC if it is demonstrated that recreational anglers use the boat ramps predominantly and the applicant has already sought funding from the NSW Maritime Authority through the Marine Infrastructure Program.

Conflict of Interest Policy

NSW DPI is developing a conflict of interest policy to be included in handbook for recreational fishing stakeholder members. The handbook will give guidance and protection to members in the conduct of their duties.

Funding Policy for Small Grants Program

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees agreed that a maximum funding limit of \$5,000 should continue to be applied to applications requesting funding under the Small Grants Program. Small grants should only be made available in a single year. Funding over \$5,000 but below \$10,000 in exceptional circumstances may be considered.

Pensioner Recreational Fishing Licences

The Freshwater and Saltwater Committees did not support implementation of a long-term pensioner recreational fishing fee requiring a one off payment of \$20, valid for ten years.

Codes of Conduct for competition fishing

NSW DPI is developing voluntary codes of conduct for competition fishing to encourage ethical and environmental good practice. Once developed, the codes of conduct will be made available to all committee members.

Tumut River Habitat Restoration

Rodney Tonkin expressed a need for habitat restoration to occur within the Tumut River catchment and advised that the local Catchment Management Authority was reticent to pursue habitat rehabilitation in this area. Mr Tonkin recommended that the relevant Conservation Manager be approached to investigate the status of habitat protection within this catchment and to report back to the Council of Freshwater Anglers on options for amelioration of degraded fish habitat. A proposal should be developed in the future to address habitat protection issues in this catchment.

Carp Eradication in Wyangala Dam.

Rodney Tonkin requested for some mechanism of reducing the density of European Carp in Wyangala Dam be investigated with a suggestion that inland commercial fishers be approached to assist in the removal of carp from this waterway.

Assessment of crown road closure proposals

NSW DPI Division has been requested to forward all proposals for crown road closures to the Travelling Stock Route Access Officer for assessment to ensure recreational fishing access is not overlooked and appropriate consultation occurs.

Research into catfish genetics

Mr Ping Kee expressed a need for research to be conducted on the genetics of freshwater catfish. NSW DPI noted that there may be a number of separate genetic stocks of catfish and that the origin of hatchery broodstock is not well documented. The identification of any catfish population substructures is considered a key priority research area under the fish stocking FMS.

Eastern cod research

Kevin McKinnon acknowledged Gavin Butler and Lee Baumgartner for organising a public forum at the John Lakes Centre, Narrandera on research into eastern cod spawning.

Action items

The local Conservation Manager to examine the status of habitat protection within the Tumut River Catchment and report back to the Council of Freshwater Anglers on options to improve riparian habitat within the Tumut River catchment.

NSW DPI make contact with Mr Tonkin and advise of the possibility of inland commercial fishers providing assistance in the removal of carp from Wyangala Dam. NSW DPI to provide the contact details of those fishers that may be interested in providing this service.

9. Next Meeting

Meeting 25, 22 August 2006. Meeting location to be determined.