

**Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee
Outcomes, Meeting 38
5 April 2011
Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence**

RFFTEC Members

Bruce Schumacher	Chair, RFFTEC
Ron Croker	Region 3
Ian Ward	Region 4
Tom Williams	Region 5
Debbie Lennon	Region 6
Richard Ping Kee	Region 7
Kevin McKinnon	Region 8
Doug Joyner	Australian Fishing Trade Association
Peter Turnell	Director, Fisheries Resource Management

Meeting declared open at 9:00am

1. Chairs Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Max Graham, Region 1, Ron Butler, Region 2.

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous RFFTEC meeting

The draft outcomes of the 37th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting. **Moved:** Tom Williams **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon Carried.

4. Action Items from meeting 37

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

5. Correspondence received

No incoming correspondence since the last meeting.

6. The Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services

On 4 April the Premier announced new administrative arrangements for the public sector to support the NSW Government. There has been a reduction from 13 to 9 clusters with each principal department to be led by a Director-General. These include:

1. Premier and Cabinet, Department of Premier and Cabinet
2. Trade and Investment, Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
3. Treasury, The Treasury
4. Finance and Services, Department of Finance and Services
5. Health, Department of Health
6. Family and Community Services, Department of Family and Community Services
7. Attorney General and Justice, Department of Attorney General and Justice
8. Transport, Department of Transport
9. Education and Communities, Department of Education and Communities

The Department of Industry and Investment has been renamed the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTIRIS) and includes a separate Department of Primary Industries comprising:

- Primary Industries (including Fisheries)
- Regional Development
- Office of Rural Affairs
- NSW Food Authority
- Rural Assistance Authority
- Lands, incl Crown Lands, Soil Conservation, Spatial Data
- NSW Office of Water
- Marine Parks Authority

Other offices within the cluster include the Office of Trade, Business and Industry; Office of Energy and Resources; Office of Tourism, Major Events and Arts as well as a number of other Offices, Authorities and Bodies. The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP has been announced as the new Minister of Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business.

7. NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Report

The status of the Freshwater Trust was provided at the meeting. Annual and meeting reports for Trust funded programs were submitted by project managers to enable committee members to review progress of projects prior to the meeting.

A community expression of interest for Trust funded programs was advertised by the Department and widely circulated using a media release, mail outs to fishing clubs, councils, the Department's website and other networks. The Department received many enquiries from the community about funding opportunities and assistance was provided to develop applications. A large number of applications were received by the Department.

Recreational fishing licence fees

As previously supported by RFFTEC and ACoRF, it is proposed to increase the recreational fishing fee in line with CPI later this year.

Government Licensing Service

The NSW Government Licensing Service (GLS) recently undertook a review of its pricing structure for agencies integrated to the whole of Government Service. Associated recreational fishing licence transaction costs increased from October 2010 with further increases to occur in July 2011, which will significantly impact on the overall Recreational Fishing Licensing administration budget. The Department is continuing to look at options to increase cost efficiencies of the existing licensing system and is currently negotiating with GLS regarding the pricing structure for recreational licensing transactions.

Action item: That ACoRF write to the Minister requesting that the Minister for Finance and Services review the Government Licensing Services transaction costs for the sale of recreational fishing licences given the high volume of simple fishing licence transactions.

8. Appraisal of Investment Plan for 2011/12 Programs

The Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan previously supported for funding by the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF and approved by the Minister, was appraised by RFFTEC taking into account project status and any variations to projects as outlined in the annual and meeting reports submitted by program managers (refer to Tables 1 and 2). RFFTEC reiterated support for the previously approved programs in the Investment Plan without amendment.

The Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee recommended that the annual Freshwater trust allocation be increased from \$4 million to \$4.5 million in 2011/12.

9. Project updates - presentations

a) Freshwater compliance – An overview of recent compliance actions undertaken across inland NSW including significant enforcement outcomes was provided. All six Fisheries Officer positions are currently filled and these officers have contributed significantly to patrol activities on the inland. So far this financial year over 5000 freshwater fisher checks have been completed with around 93% found to be complying with the fisheries legislation.

b) Native fish breeding – Native stockings at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre have so far comprised 26,000 golden perch, 432,000 Murray cod and 18,000 silver perch and 10,000 Trout cod. A total of 137 Macquarie perch fingerlings were also stocked within the upper Lachlan catchment. This is the first time Macquarie perch have been successfully bred in captivity. Commercial hatcheries encountered some problems with calcein marking of Murray cod for stocking research programs. These fish were then transferred to the Narrandera Fisheries Centre and subsequently marked with minimal losses. Hatchery staff have since conducted experiments to further validate the calcein marking technique with Murray cod.

c) Survival of fish caught and released - In the most recently completed barotrauma experiments with golden perch, the severity of impacts of barotrauma was found to increase with depth and surface interval. There were no deaths among control sites or barotrauma fish that were returned to depth with a release weight. Another experiment is investigating the impacts of live-well retention on fish across four different configurations: (1) no aeration or flow-through water; (2) no aeration, but with flow-through water; (3) aeration, but no flow-through water; and (4) aeration and flow-through water. Fish were held at two stocking densities (individual or paired) in replicate live-wells of the above configurations for up to an hour, with regular assessment. None of the fish died or lost orientation, despite considerable changes in water quality.

d). Inland Conservation Manager update - Due to the flooding in southern NSW and Victoria in late 2010 and early 2011 there have been several major fish kills and black water events in most southern river systems. The Department has undertaken fish rescues and is working with State and Commonwealth agencies to provide dilution flows including a major delivery of environmental water in the Murrumbidgee system, aeration or areas where fish have congregated and collection of biological information from dead fish. Major flooding in the Upper Murray, Murrumbidgee, Billabong and Murray Rivers has caused extensive damage to riverbanks, bridges, roads and other infrastructure. The Department is working with other agencies to ensure no net loss of fish habitat for works needing to be undertaken on flood damaged infrastructure.

10. Review of new 2011/12 FW applications

New Trust project applications (large and small grants) supported for funding by the Freshwater Trust are listed in Table 3. New Trust project applications deferred for further consideration are listed in Table 4. New project applications not supported for funding by the Freshwater Trust are listed in Table 5.

11. 2011/12 Investment Plan summary

The revised financial status of the Freshwater Trust was considered RFFTEC which noted remaining contingency funds remaining in the Trust. The Trust Investment Plan for

2011/12 and 2012/13 will be updated with new projects supported at the meeting by the expenditure committees, following approval by the Minister.

12. General Business

Communications strategy for recreational fishing

The expenditure committees requested that the department develop a communications strategy for recreational fishing outlining existing recreational fisheries publications and new strategies and methods to promote education and advisory of recreational fishing rules, responsible and sustainable fishing practices, safe fishing and Trust programs. A sub-committee of committee members can assist with the development of the strategy.

Action item: That the Department develops a communications strategy for recreational fishing in consultation with the committees.

Gaden hatchery

The expenditure committee discussed ongoing funding arrangements for Gaden Trout Hatchery and requested that a letter be written from ACoRF to the new Minister requesting contributing funding from the Government for operational expenses at the hatchery.

Action item:

That a letter be written from ACoRF to the new Minister requesting contributing funding from the Government for operational expenses at the hatchery.

New committee appointments:

The Department advised that nominations for upcoming vacancies on the Committee for regions 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 in May are currently being considered.

2011 Fishers for Fish Habitat Forum

Mr Kevin McKinnon and Mr Tom Williams were nominated as RFFTEC representatives to attend the annual Fish Habitat Forum to be held in Tamworth on 20-21 May 2011. The purpose of the forum is to discuss fisheries habitat management issues in NSW and inspect fish habitat restoration work being undertaken in the Peel River catchment. Mr Richard Ping Kee, Mr Ron Butler and Mr Ian Ward will also attend the Forum.

Action item: That DPI liaises with the Media Unit to enhance exposure of the Recreational Fishing Trusts during the promotion of relevant projects funded by the Trusts.

13. Next Meeting

Date to be determined.

14. Meeting closed:

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.00 pm

Table 1: Summary of freshwater programs approved by the Minister in the FW Trust Investment Plan

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Fish stocking: enhanced fish production - NSW DPI operates hatcheries that produce native fish and trout for stocking in freshwater impoundments throughout NSW. Trust funds boost production at the hatcheries, which has led to record numbers of fish being stocked and better fishing.	NSW DPI	\$346,458	\$396,769	\$418,200	\$440,446	\$465,063
Fish stocking: dollar for dollar program – community grants for fishing clubs to buy native fingerlings for stocking in rivers and dams.	NSW DPI	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Management of fish stocking to ensure responsible stocking practices – undertakes environmental assessments of fish stocking programs in NSW to ensure they are carried out in an ecologically sustainable way.	NSW DPI	\$96,171	\$104,809	\$108,543	\$108,543	\$108,543
Installation of secondary recirculation unit at Dutton Trout Hatchery – installation of a second re-circulation system to increase the amount of chilled / temperature controlled water in the hatchery used to house fish for stocking.	NSW DPI		\$38,250			
Supporting Fish Hatchery Trainees – capacity development program for work experience students at the Narrandera Fish Hatchery to build expertise in fish breeding technology.	NSW DPI		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Gaden Trout Hatchery - funding for the ongoing operation of the hatchery, including operational costs, including a trial employment of a dedicated tour guide.	NSW DPI		\$434,000	\$429,510	\$442,395	\$455,667
Species Impact Statement and Ministerial order for limited recreational fishing for Trout Cod in stocked impounded waters - this project is required to enable potential access to limited fishing for Trout cod in stocked impoundments.	NSW DPI			\$30,000 FW		

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation in the south west region – a conservation manager based in Albury manages fish habitat protection and aquatic threatened species management issues in south west NSW amongst government and non-government organisations, landholders, catchment management authorities and recreational fishing groups.	NSW DPI	\$158,646	\$158,646	\$162,623	\$162,623	\$162,623

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Program	Proponent	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Budget	
					2011/12	2012/13
Effectiveness of freshwater stockings and recreational freshwater fishing assessments – involves completion of scientific studies on western drainage freshwater fish stockings to develop cost-effective stocking procedures for large-scale releases of fish (Phase 1). Phase 2 involves determining areas to be stocked, optimal stocking sizes and methods, the impacts of stocked fish on resident species, and the effectiveness of size limits on selected fisheries.	NSW DPI	\$184,439 Phase 1	\$190,978 Phase 2	\$204,923	\$218,245	\$228,999
Maximising the post release survival of angler caught native freshwater fish – research to develop fishing gears and practices that improve the survival of released fish in freshwater (Phase 2).	NSW DPI	\$81,900	\$199,900	\$199,300	\$101,500	
Optimised stocking of Australian bass by testing modelled estimates of predator impact – develops a predatory impact model to optimise stocking rates of Australian bass in freshwater impoundments.	University of NSW	\$50,427	\$52,251			
Enhancing Australian bass populations in the Clarence River through increased knowledge of their biology – investigates life history characteristics of a local bass population in the Clarence River which will provide specific information for management of the species in that catchment.	NSW DPI	\$10,000	\$10,000			
Rescue and protection of Macquarie perch from Upper Lachlan River system and investigations into captive breeding techniques - will ensure the preservation of Macquarie perch from the Lachlan river catchment by removing a representative portion of the population to secure refuge. Also investigates captive breeding techniques of Macquarie perch	NSW DPI	\$25,570	\$26,190			
Recovering recreational fisheries for freshwater catfish in the Murray-Darling Basin – determines patterns of population structure in freshwater catfish and identifies suitable reintroduction sites within the Murray-Darling catchment.	NSW DPI	\$133,610				
Spawning sites and reproductive behaviour of Murray cod in upland and lowland riverine habitats in the northern Murray-Darling River System.	NSW DPI		\$50,000			
A longitudinal study of nodavirus infection in Australian bass – sampling a batch of Nodavirus positive fish at regular intervals until they reach sexual maturity to determine whether and how the virus is passed onto the progeny of that batch.	NSW DPI		\$19,200	\$20,450	\$22,500	
Evaluation of the status of nodavirus-carrying Australian bass in NSW waterways – investigation of the incidence of Nodavirus in wild juvenile Australian bass populations and a review of the testing of Nodavirus in bass hatcheries based on the results.	NSW DPI		\$63,150			
Ongoing monitoring of the movement patterns of Australian bass and eel-tailed catfish in the Clarence River.	NSW DPI			\$10,000	\$10,000	
Spawning sites and reproductive behaviour of Murray cod in upland and lowland riverine habitats in the northern Murray-Darling River System.	NSW DPI			\$50,000	\$50,000	
Detecting and preventing the spread of an emerging pest species, Redfin, in the Upper Cocks River.	NSW DPI			\$15,000		

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
6 Inland Fisheries Officers (enhancement activities) - six inland fisheries officers conduct a range of activities to enhance voluntary compliance with fishing rules by providing advisory and education services and creating effective deterrence to illegal activity by undertaking patrols and enforcement operations	NSW DPI	\$700,824	\$727,717	\$755,685	\$874,773	\$815,026

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recreational Fishing Trusts Promotional Freshwater Fishing Calendar – to produce a recreational fishing trusts calendar promoting recreational fishing rules by running an angler photo competition.	NSW DPI	\$15,000				
Gaden Trout Hatchery Tour Guide position - the Tour Guide undertakes tours of the hatchery facilities providing information on trout production and local fishing opportunities.	NSW DPI			\$68,000	\$62,000	\$65,000

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Corowa Murray River Foreshore fishing platform	Corowa Shire Council			FW \$24,800		

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Freshwater Recreational Management – this position coordinates the following Trust programs: Enhanced fish production, \$ for \$ stocking, freshwater grants and expenditure committee coordination.	NSW DPI	\$166,000	\$166,000	\$166,000	\$166,000	\$166,000

Table 2: Summary of joint freshwater and saltwater programs approved by the Minister in the Trust Investment Plan

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Habitat Action Program...Making more fish naturally – involves development of a series of on-grounds works programs to improve habitat rehabilitation and fish stocks in consultation with the CMAs.	NSW DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$200,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Scientific data collection from recreational fishing tournaments in NSW – aims to sample the catch and effort from Basscatch and other freshwater native fish events and club-based gamefishing in NSW in support of the assessment of billfish, tuna and sharks and freshwater native fish.	NSW DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$80,359	\$86,422	\$151,426	\$161,074	\$175,852
		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$34,439	\$37,038	\$37,857	\$40,268	\$43,963

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recreational Fishing Promotion and Event Management – involves working with fishing tournament organisers and the community to promote events that operate in a safe and environmentally and socially responsible way. This also includes implementing codes of practice for recreational fishing in NSW.	NSW DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$108,110	\$109,780	\$109,780	\$109,780	\$115,760
		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$27,030	\$27,440	\$27,440	\$27,440	\$28,940
Fishcare Volunteers – this is the flagship program of the Trusts. Over 300 trained volunteers are involved in face to face education with anglers to help them to be familiar with fishing rules and to promote responsible fishing practices.	NSW DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$620,201	\$594,100	\$595,200	\$595,200	\$595,200
		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$175,771	\$169,500	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000
Get hooked...Its fun to fish - this schools education program is designed to teach children at an early age about the importance of aquatic habitats and to introduce them to safe and responsible fishing practices.	NSW DPI	\$435,500	SW	SW	SW	SW
			\$364,600	\$386,000	\$361,000	\$396,000
			FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$40,000	\$38,000	\$40,000	\$39,000	
Recreational fishing awareness raising - provides information on fishing rules to anglers and encourages responsible and sustainable fishing practices through a range of media (newspaper, magazines, radio, billboards) at peak fishing periods.	NSW DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000

Platform: Recreational fishing education (continued)

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Fishing workshops – a series of fishing workshops for children are held in Sydney, at Government hatcheries and across regional NSW, including workshops for special needs groups and NESB communities.	NSW DPI	SW \$36,250 FW \$19,750	SW \$36,250 FW \$19,750	SW \$36,310 FW \$19,780	SW \$36,310 FW \$19,780	SW \$36,310 FW \$19,780
Recreational Fishing Guides – 300,000 Freshwater and saltwater fishing guides are produced each year to help recreational anglers identify their catch and summarise the fishing rules.	NSW DPI	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000
RFA of NSW Fishing Safely DVD and resource material – involves production of high quality DVD modules on fishing safely in saltwater and freshwater.	RFA NSW	FW \$12,000 SW \$28,000				
Recreational fishing calendar and photo competition 2012 and 2013	NSW DPI			SW \$9,750 FW \$9,750	SW \$9,750 FW \$9,750	

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recreational fishing infrastructure grants manager – facilitates the development of quality recreational fishing infrastructure in key locations for use by recreational fishers, identifies key gaps in the availability of existing infrastructure and develops a list of potential works to guide new applications.	NSW DPI	SW \$86,800 FW \$37,200	SW \$113,348 FW \$13,000	SW \$121,559 FW \$13,000	SW \$124,645 FW \$14,000	SW \$128,645 FW \$14,000
Recreational fishing access – 2 fisheries managers work closely with government agencies and other landowners to maintain and improve current access to popular local fishing spots.	NSW DPI	SW \$118,000 FW \$127,954	SW \$125,400 FW \$149,059	SW \$133,700 FW \$158,623	SW \$138,145 FW \$159,123	SW \$138,145 FW \$160,623
Small grants program - provides seed funding for community groups for recreational fishing infrastructure programs such as fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms.	Community groups/ Councils etc	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000
RFA NSW – NSW Crown Lands and Reserves vesting and securing recreational fishing access for the future – This project will identify Crown parcels of land, which could be formed into reserves dedicated for recreational usage, including fishing, under the Crown Lands Act.	Recreational fishing Alliance of NSW			\$128,695 SW \$55,155 FW		

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Expenditure Committee meeting expenses – the saltwater and freshwater committees of expert anglers reviews Trust funding applications and ongoing progress of programs.	RFSTEC/ RFFTEC/ NSW DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$35,000	\$30,000	\$31,000	\$32,000	\$33,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$30,000	\$30,000	\$31,000	\$32,000	\$33,000
Recreational fishing fee administration – provides for the convenient payment of the fishing fee at fishing tackle stores, other outlets and via the web and phone, plastic licences and a renewal function.	NSW DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$750,000	\$1,040,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$300,000	\$300,000	\$400,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Fee research database – this database collects information on the details of fee receipt holders and other demographic information for use in research surveys.	NSW DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000
Licence fee renewal facility – enhanced fee renewal service for anglers.	NSW DPI	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
		\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000
		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

Table 3 - New Trust Project Applications supported by RFFTEC for funding

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation in the South West region To provide aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation regulatory and advisory services to the South West of the State. Motion: The Committee <u>supported additional funding</u> for the project. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Debbie Lennon Carried.	NSW DPI	\$19,000	\$19,000

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
Small Projects			
Wingecarribee River recreational fishing platforms To establish two timber deck structures on the banks of the Wingecarribee River to facilitate safe and convenient access for the purpose of promoting and encouraging recreational fishing. Motion: The Committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project as it will enhance recreational fishing opportunities within the Wingecarribee River and direct access to the fishing platforms will be provided via a public walkway. Moved: Ron Croker Seconded: Kevin McKinnon Carried.	Wingecarribee Shire Council	\$10,000	\$0
Water tanks for showers and fish cleaning table Lake Keepit Matthews Reserve To provide water for showers and construct a fish cleaning table for the recreational fishing and camping area at Matthews Reserve, Lake Keepit. Motion: The Committee <u>supported funding</u> towards construction of the fish cleaning table component of the project only. Moved: Doug Joyner Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.	Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club Fishing Club	\$2,000	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
Small Projects			
Quality advisory canopy for Inland Fishcare utility vehicle to enhance education capacity, particularly in remote areas where the advisory trailer (Perchy) cannot be used. Purchase of an aluminium utility storage canopy for the inland Fishcare vehicle, to increase the awareness/advisory capacity for the region in remote areas, enabling better service to anglers and the wider community relating to recreational fishing and Trust funded initiatives. Motion: The Committee <u>supported funding</u> for the project. Moved: Tom Williams Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.	NSW DPI	\$10,000	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Rescue and protection of Macquarie perch from upper Lachlan river system and investigations into captive breeding techniques. Continue to maintain a captive population of Macquarie perch rescued from the upper Lachlan catchment until a self-sustaining population can be established in the Retreat River refuge reach (or a suitable alternative refuge from redfin perch invasion). Continue to refine the successful captive breeding techniques established in 2010 in order to achieve large-scale hatchery production for the species. Monitor the establishment of the released captive bred fingerlings. Monitor the spread of redfin perch and their impacts on Macquarie perch and native fish communities. Motion: The Committee <u>supported funding</u> for the project. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Tom Williams Carried</p>	NSW DPI	\$38,208	\$39,354

Small Projects

<p>An Assessment of the Australian bass stockings in the Snowy River The information collected from this project will finalise research aimed at better-informing future stockings of Australian bass in rivers throughout NSW. Motion: The Committee <u>supported funding</u> for finalisation of this project to determine the success of recent Australian bass re-stocking efforts in the Snowy River. program. Moved: Ian Ward Seconded: Debbie Lennon Carried</p>	Southern Cross University	\$10,000	\$0
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Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Recreational fishing licence fee administration Provision of a cost-effective and efficient licensing administration system integrated to the Government Licensing Service. The system provides a convenient network for payment of the recreational fishing licence fees and distribution of plastic licence cards to anglers. Motion: The Committee <u>supported funding</u> for the project Moved: Lionel Jones Seconded: John Paton Carried. Note: The Committee requested that the ACoRF chair write to the Minister requesting that the Minister for Finance and Services review the Government Licensing Services transaction costs for the sale of recreational fishing licences given the high volume of simple fishing licence transactions.</p>	NSW DPI	\$601,200 FW \$1,402,800 SW	\$0

Table 4: New Trust Project Applications deferred by RFFTEC

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>EOI for investigation and construction of carp trapping mechanism on fishways currently being constructed in the Edward-Wakool River system An expression of interest for obtaining funds through to investigate and possibly implement carp trapping mechanisms on fishways in the Edward-Wakool River system. Motion: The Committee <u>deferred</u> this application and requested that more detailed information be provided on the pre-proposal given the recent changes to Government administration. Moved: Doug Joyner Seconded: Richard Ping Kee Carried.</p>	DECCW, NSW Office of Water	\$0	\$0

Table 5 - New Trust Project Applications not supported by RFFTEC

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Adjustment to funding - Additional Inland Fisheries Officer To enhance the fisheries officer complement by one officer to provide a broader compliance presence in far western NSW. The additional officer, if funded by the Recreational Freshwater Fishing Trust would be based at Dareton (Far West District). Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support funding</u> for this project as significant funding was already being provided from the trust for inland Compliance. Moved: Doug Joyner Seconded: Debbie Lennon Carried.</p> <p>Note: That a letter be written from ACoRF to the new Minister requesting that additional funding from the government be provided for the 18 Fisheries Officers using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts beyond the current duration of the current Trust Investment Plan. A reduction in funding (e.g. two thirds) from the Trusts should be considered with no net loss of staff.</p>	NSW DPI	\$120,096	\$124,900

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Murray River - Accessible Fishing Platform To construct an accessible fishing platform as part of a trail currently under construction, which is an accessible shared pathway known as the Wagirra Trail. The fishing platform will be a key activity point on this trail along the Murray River. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support funding</u> for this project at this stage as seating, tables and pathways are usually council responsibility. Inspection of the proposed platform site was requested to ensure future benefit to recreational fishers. The Committee referred this application to the DPI Trust Infrastructure Manager to liaise with the project applicant prior to re-submission. Moved: Doug Joyner Seconded: Kevin McKinnon Carried.</p>	Albury City Council	\$45,500	\$0
<p>Build a fish cleaning facility for the Euston Resort Fishing Club Inc To construct an adequate facility for anglers to clean fish and for the use of the wider community. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support funding</u> for this project, noting that the application had been re-submitted without addressing the request for additional/revised information Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Ian Ward Carried. The Committee considered the construction of fishing club facilities to be the responsibility of the club. The Committee referred this application to the DPI Trust Infrastructure Manager to liaise with the project applicant prior to re-submission, including reviewing the potential for a fish cleaning table at a nearby reserve.</p>	Euston Resort Fishing Club Inc.	\$44,000	\$0
Small Projects			
<p>Berrigan Angling Club Family Involvement To purchase portable toilet and sun shade to provide facilities and encourage involvement of children, elderly members and families to participate in angling. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support funding</u> for this project as general public amenities is usually council responsibility. Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Doug Joyner Carried.</p>	Berrigan Sporties Angling Club	\$5,200	\$0
<p>Bells Bay Fishing Recreation and Camping Area Refurbishment To introduce educational signage to promote catch and release fishing practises, size limits, threatened species, conservation and historical information exclusive to Toonumbar Dam and Kyogle Fish Acclimatisation Society. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support Trust funding</u> for this project as signage can be provided through the existing Inland Fisheries Management program. The Committee asked that the DPI Inland Fisheries Manager contact the applicant to arrange signage installation at Bells Bay camping reserve Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Ron Croker Carried.</p>	Growing Kyogle – A Community Economic Development Committee	\$7,822	\$0
<p>Creation of fishing area Lansdowne To clear a section of riverbank to allow fishing access and to build, two picnic tables and a shelter. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support funding</u> for this project as approval for riparian clearance is required under the Native Vegetation Act and public amenities such as picnic tables and shelters is usually council responsibility. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Debbie Lennon Carried.</p>	Lansdowne Fishing Club	\$10,000	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Fort Courage fish cleaning shelter To construct a covered and partly enclosed fish cleaning station at Fort Courage. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support funding</u> for this project as the fish cleaning table was located on private property. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.</p>	Wentworth Angling Club	\$9,400	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Towards better management of the impact of blackwater on recreational fisheries in lowland rivers This project seeks to develop a model that helps management agencies minimise recreational stock losses due to blackwater; determine why some blackwater events and not others result in massive fish kills; determine whether blackwater events shift the fish community from one dominated by desirable sportfish to an undesirable one dominated by exotics (carp and goldfish). Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support funding</u> for this project. Moved: Richard Ping Kee Seconded: Doug Joyner Carried. Note: The Committee recognised the importance of addressing impacts of black water events on recreational fish species however it was noted that a better integrated program should be developed with other collaborating agencies, including NSW DPI and Victoria Primary Industries, with a view to minimising the impacts of black water events on fish species in future.</p>	CSIRO Land and Water, Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre	\$152,900	\$202,000
<p>Status of reintroduced trout cod (<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>) populations in NSW – implications for conservation status and future recreational fisheries This project examines the status and impact of reintroduced riverine trout cod populations in NSW, including assessing their recruitment, growth and survival with that of a natural occurring population. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support funding</u> for this project Moved: Ron Croker Seconded: Doug Joyner Carried. Note: The Committee noted that funding was recently supported from the Trust to develop a Species Impact Statement to enable limited recreational fishing for Trout Cod in stocked impoundments.</p>	NSW DPI	\$80,360	\$81,605

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Habitat Action Program – making more fish... naturally - additional funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13 An allocation of \$400,000 (\$200,000 per Trust) towards the Habitat Action Program (HAP) was approved by RFFTEC, RFSTEC and ACoRF in July 2008. Approval is sought for an additional \$300,000 from RFSTEC and \$300,000 from RFFTEC per year for the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 financial years. The Committee <u>did not support additional funding</u> for this project and noted that the current approved allocation of \$200,000 was sufficient. Moved: John Paton Seconded: Malcolm Poole Carried.</p>	NSW DPI	\$300,000 Freshwater \$300,000 Saltwater	\$300,000 Freshwater \$300,000 Saltwater

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Fishing NSW iPhone App pre-proposal To design and develop an iPhone app for fishing enthusiasts and a general audience to easily gain up to date information on various fish species, rules and regulations that pertain to bag and size limits on recreational, salt and freshwater fishing within NSW. Supporting iPhone 3GS and iPhone 4. We could look to roll this to other mobile platforms i.e. Android. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support funding</u> for this project. Moved: Malcolm Poole Seconded: Geoff Shelton Carried. Note: The Committee noted that several similar programs were being developed in NSW and recommended that DPI develop a broader communications strategy for recreational fishing, including investigating the feasibility for an iPhone application.</p>	Image Mechanics	\$0 Jointly funded	\$0
Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Mobile Phone Fishing Application for Recreational Fishing The FISHABOUT App will provide the where, what, how and when to catch recreational fish species in NSW, based on a user's GPS location and time of year. The App will also include vital Fisheries information such as: bag limits, green zones, boat ramps, licences and safety instruction and the ability to buy a fishing license. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>did not support funding</u> for this project. Moved: Malcolm Poole Seconded: Geoff Shelton Carried. Note: The Committee noted that several similar programs were being developed in NSW and recommended that DPI develop a broader communications strategy for recreational fishing, including investigating the feasibility for an iPhone application.</p>	Untamed Group Pty Ltd (Head Company for Fishabout)	\$120,000 Jointly funded Saltwater/Freshwater	\$0