

**Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee**  
**Outcomes - Meeting 28, 13 November 2007, Cronulla**

**Apologies**

Brian Hale (AFTA). Dr Bob Creese attended as the nominated alternate for Dr Steve Kennelly.

**Confirmation of minutes from previous RFFTEC meeting**

The draft outcomes of the 27th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting with the following amendments:

Page 1: Under the heading "five freshwater compliance officers", change second sentence to "It was recommended that DPI conduct an audit of trust fund expenditure for this program and reconcile the budget and actual expenditure for the current trust funded positions in those periods when the full contingent of officers were not employed, noting the proposal discussed in General Business to develop a business plan for trust expenditure including clear cost sharing arrangements for compliance services".

Page 8: Under the heading "General Business", & sub heading "Proposed Development of a Business Plan", in the last paragraph replace the word "could" with "should".

Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Rodney Tonkin. **Carried.**

**1. Review of Fisheries Compliance Restructure Proposal and inland compliance budget**

Details of the Fisheries Compliance Restructure proposal were presented at the meeting. Paul O'Connor, Director Compliance Operations, presented details of the 2006/07 Freshwater Trust inland compliance program following a recent budget analysis.

**Action item:** NSW DPI committed to refunding the salary and cost recovery components of the Freshwater Trust inland compliance budget for that part of 2006-07 where the full contingent of inland compliance officers were not employed and for the period in the current financial year where Trust funded compliance staff were undertaking equine influenza duties.

**1. 2007/08 Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust status report**

The Freshwater Trust financial table was provided at the meeting for the Committee's information to indicate the amount of funds available for new programs.

The Committee was advised that a repeat survey of recreational fishers will be undertaken in early 2008 to inform updated Trust priorities. This information will contribute to the development of an investment plan for the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

**2. New Recreational Fishing Grant Applications**

**Freshwater Trust programs – large grants**

The Committee supported funding of \$32,569 in 2007-08, \$34,439 in 2008-09 and \$37,038 in 2009-10 for **Monitoring of game fish and inland native fisheries in NSW via competition-based angling** (DPI) to sample catch and effort from club based fishing and game fishing tournaments in NSW to support resource assessment. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: Ian Ward. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$42,675 in 2007-08, \$85,349 in 2008-09 and \$88,708 in 2009-10 for **Investigating the effectiveness of deployment of structures within Penrith Lakes system for enhancing impoundment fisheries**. Although it was a sound project, it was considered to be of low value to recreational fishers generally because of the limited access to Penrith Lakes. **Moved:** Karl Schaerf. **Seconded:** Max Graham. **Carried.**

The Committee recommended that a decision on funding of \$36,650 in 2007-08 for the **Murray cod angling research proposal in the Murrumbidgee River by DPI Victoria** be deferred until the budget meeting in April 2008 and that the NSW DPI Chief Scientist provide written advice on the merits of the proposal and / or possible alternatives.

### **Freshwater Trust programs – small grants**

The Committee supported funding of \$5,000 in 2007-08 for **Supporting fish hatchery trainees at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre** to provide funds for fisheries students to learn practical skills in a native fish production. Note. Funding for years 2 and 3 of the program will be assessed following progress review of the first year. **Moved:** Ian Ward. **Seconded:** Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$9,900 in 2007-08 for **Movement patterns of the eel tailed freshwater catfish in the Nymboida River** to describe the movement patterns of the poorly understood eastern freshwater catfish in relation to flows and barriers. **Moved:** Ian Ward. **Seconded:** Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

The Committee supported funding of \$4,000 in 2007-08 for **The installation of a fish cleaning table adjacent to Kremer Street Reserve boat ramp** to provide a recreational fishing amenity for anglers fishing in the Murray River near Albury. Note. Funding for the light at the boat ramp was not supported. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

The Committee did not support funding of \$1,900 in 2007-08, \$1,900 in 2008-09 and \$1,900 in 2009-2010 for **Funding for functions of NETAS members attending CFA meetings, fishing clinics and undertaking trout restocking**. **Moved:** Richard Ping Kee. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.** Note. The Committee supported the development of a cooperative relationship amongst recreational fishing groups, but it was considered that payment of travel expenses for meetings and stocking costs would set a precedent for future funding of other organisations.

The Committee supported funding of \$5,000 in 2007-08 for **the installation of a fish cleaning table adjacent to the boat ramp at the Balranald Township riverside recreation reserve**, to provide a recreational fishing amenity for anglers fishing in the Murrumbidgee River near Balranald. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Ron Croker. **Carried.**

### **3. Project updates**

Project updates on the following programs were presented and discussed at the meeting: Effectiveness of Stocking Research, Freshwater Recreational Management, Recreational Fishing Grants and Recreational Fish Stocking, Nodavirus testing in hatcheries producing Australian bass, Fishcare Volunteer Program in inland NSW, Freshwater Recreational Research programs in north-eastern NSW (conservation genetics and reproductive biology of Eastern Cod, movement patterns of banded grunter in the Clarence River and

the impacts of flows and barriers on fish movements within the Clarence River catchment), research on the genetic structure of NSW catfish populations and angler access through crown reserves / public land (presented after the close of the meeting for the information of Committee members). RFFTEC expressed its appreciation to all presenters and particularly commended the Angler Access Manager for his dedication to the program.

**Action item:** RFFTEC requested copies of all presentations provided at the meeting, including DVD footage of trout navigating the fish ladder on the Fish River Weir.

#### **4. General business**

##### Status of conservation managers

The Committee discussed the Conservation Management Program and requested the following action:

**Action item:** That the Chair write to the Director, Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture to seek advice on the status of the previously Trust funded conservation manager positions regarding current roles and responsibilities.

##### National workshop on Recreational Fishing Access

The Committee requested that Mr Tonkin on behalf of the Council of Freshwater Anglers prepare a submission to RECFISH Australia regarding a proposal to convene a national workshop on Recreational Fishing Access.

##### Committee appointments

**Action Item:** The Committee requested that a letter be sent to the Minister raising concern about the delay in the committee member appointment process.

##### Status of recreational fishery at Ben Chifley Dam

The Committee discussed a letter from the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers regarding the impact of redfin on the quality of the trout fishery in Ben Chifley dam.

**Action item:** Cameron Westaway advised that he would consult with Dr Lee Baumgartner regarding a potential survey of Ben Chifley dam noting that no diversion of resources from the Effectiveness of Stocking program should occur.

##### Water entitlements at dams

**Action item:** NSW DPI to investigate the purchase of water entitlements within the recreational fishing governance program.

#### **5. RFFTEC meetings, 2008**

9-10 April 2008 (rescheduled)

13 August 2008

26 November 2008