

**Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee
Outcomes, Meeting 40
2 May 2012
Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence**

RFFTEC Members

Bruce Schumacher	Chair, RFFTEC
Max Graham	Region 1
Ron Butler	Region 2
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

Meeting declared open at 9:00am

1. Chairs Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Peter Turnell, Director, Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous RFFTEC meeting

The draft outcomes of the 39th RFFTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting. **Moved:** Max Graham **Seconded:** Ron Croker Carried.

4. Action Items from meeting 39

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

5. Correspondence received

a. Letter from Matthew Hansen seeking additional freshwater fisheries compliance in the Dubbo region

b. Letters from Mr Izzard, Mr Delaney and Mr Simshauser regarding the Basscatch program.

NSW DPI advised that Fisheries Officers are regionally located across inland NSW at a number of sites to maximise operating efficiency of the Officers and to achieve maximum compliance with fishing rules/ DPI also advised that there are no current plans to vary the bass catch program at this stage and that funding for these programs has been allocated for 2012/13 as part of the Trust Investment Plan.

6. 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 next financial year. Potential removal of the 3 day licence will still be considered but will require amendments to the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

Development of the Trust Investment Plan beyond 2012/13

The Department provided an update on planning for the Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan beyond 2012/13 noting that the current 5 year Investment Plan finishes 30 June 2013.

The Committee acknowledged that the current Plan has been working well allowing for long term planning of ongoing programs as well as catering for new tactical programs, which have been included in the Plan over time.

Prior to development of last Plan, DPI undertook a Trust survey of licence holders by an independent consultant on how funds from the NSW recreational fishing licence should be spent. It has been proposed to run another similar survey in the next 3 months.

Given some large programs have been operating for some time as part of the current Plan, Expenditure Committees have previously suggested that an appraisal of current programs is required prior to development of any new Plan. It is proposed to hold two day expenditure committee meetings in August to appraise existing programs (many of which are jointly funded by the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts) and identify any new directions or new priorities.

7. Appraisal of Investment Plan for 2012/13 Programs

The Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan previously supported for funding by the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF and approved by the Minister, was presented to RFFTEC. Annual and meeting reports submitted by program managers had also been prepared for the Committees information and review (refer to Tables 1 and 2). RFFTEC reiterated support for the previously approved programs in the Investment Plan.

8. Review of new 2012/13 FW and Joint funding 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.

9. 2012/13 Investment Plan summary

The revised financial status of the Freshwater Trust was noted taking account of projects supported for funding at the meeting and remaining contingency funds of the Freshwater Trust. The Trust Investment Plan for 2012/13 will be updated with new projects supported by the expenditure committee at the meeting, following support from ACoRF and funding approval by the Minister.

10. General Business

2012 National Recreational Fishing Conference - Travel and accommodation expenses will be provided to two RFFTEC delegates planning to attend the upcoming National

Recreational Fishing Conference, to be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on 17-19 August 2012. The purpose of the conference is to provide an international perspective on the future of recreational fishing. Delegates will have the opportunity to visit a range of presentations from keynote speakers from across Australia and to establish business relationships with supporting organisations. Nominated representatives will need to provide a report on the outcomes of the conference at the next expenditure committee meeting. Mr Max Graham and Mr Tom Williams were nominated as RFFTEC representatives to attend the National Recreational Fishing Conference.

Future catfish re-introductions - Mr Richard Ping Kee requested an update on the feasibility of translocating catfish from Copeton Dam into the lower Gwydir River. NSW DPI advised that Dr Meaghan Rourke is completing a study into the habitat requirements for freshwater catfish. A report on areas suitable for catfish re-introductions is being prepared, which will include a review of environmental factors to permit future catfish restocking/translocation, subject to adherence with population genetic guidelines for breeding of the species.

Recreational Fishing Guides – Mr Tom Williams asked if consideration could be given to the production of one combined fresh / salt recreational fishing guide in the future, given that there is some overlap in information content between the saltwater and freshwater guides. NSW DPI advised it would consider the issue during future annual revisions.

Action item: NSW DPI to consider producing a combined recreational fishing guide in the future.

11. Project updates - presentations

Murray Cod Fishery Management Group - Mr Matt Barwick discussed the formation of the Murray Cod Fishery Management Group (MCFMG) which has been set up to align and improve research and management of Murray cod across multiple jurisdictions. An Action Plan has been developed to identify and quantify environmental parameters that drive recruitment and population growth in Murray cod, to quantify the Murray cod recreational fishery and to enhance the sustainability of Murray cod populations across the MDB in the longer term. The MCFMG is keen to work collaboratively with NSW DPI and the Freshwater Trust to address these issues.

Recfishing Research - Mr Bill Sawynok discussed the challenges facing recreational fishing at a national scale, which includes a greater understanding of the social and economics benefits of recreational fishing; improving engagement with government and organisations that can impact on fishing; improving fishing opportunities and sustainability of resources and improving resilience of recreational fishers facing environmental, climate and social change. A business plan has been developed to identify funding priorities and to guide / assist research and development in addressing these challenges. It was noted that Recfishing Research would work in conjunction with the MCFMG, NSW DPI and other relevant organisations to develop a funding proposal on the biology and recruitment of Murray cod within the MDB, for consideration by the FRDC during its next funding round.

Survival of fish caught and released - Dr Matt Broadhurst updated the Committee on the outcomes of research into post release survival of fish and practices that improve the survival of released fish in freshwater. A comprehensive NSW Catch-and-Release Fishing Guide is being produced which will summarise best-practises for maximising post-release survival such as landing and handling catch, releasing catch and minimising deep hooking,

air exposure and the impacts of barotrauma. Specific information will also be provided to highlight best practice catch and releases methods for different species.

12. Meeting closed:

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.00 pm

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

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Program	Proponent	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	Budget	\$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	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	2011/12	2012/13
Effectiveness of freshwater stockings & 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 Budget	\$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		\$38,208	\$39,354
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	\$50,000	\$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 & eel-tailed catfish in the Clarence River.	NSW DPI			\$10,000	\$10,000	
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	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	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	Budget		\$68,000	\$62,000	\$65,000

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Program	Proponent	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Corowa Murray River Foreshore fishing platform	Corowa Shire Council			\$24,800		
Access footpath, stiles and weed control project at Wee Jasper Reserve.	Wee Jasper Reserve Trust				\$11,500	

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Program	Proponent	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

Budget

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	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	\$500,000	\$500,000

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

Budget

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Program	Proponent	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 \$108,110 FW \$27,030	SW \$109,780 FW \$27,440	SW \$109,780 FW \$27,440	SW \$109,780 FW \$27,440	SW \$115,760 FW \$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 \$620,201 FW \$175,771	SW \$594,100 FW \$169,500	SW \$595,200 FW \$170,000	SW \$595,200 FW \$170,000	SW \$595,200 FW \$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 \$364,600 FW \$40,000	SW \$386,000 FW \$38,000	SW \$361,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$396,000 FW \$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	Budget SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000
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 & 2013	NSW DPI			SW \$9,750 FW \$9,750	SW \$9,750 FW \$9,750	

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Program	Proponent	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	Budget		\$128,695 SW \$55,155 FW		

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Program	Proponent	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Expenditure Committee meeting expenses – the saltwater and freshwater committees of expert angler's reviews Trust funding applications and ongoing progress of programs.	RFSTEC/ RFFTEC/ NSW DPI	SW \$35,000 FW \$30,000	SW \$30,000 FW \$30,000	SW \$31,000 FW \$31,000	SW \$32,000 FW \$32,000	SW \$33,000 FW \$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 \$750,000 FW \$300,000	SW \$1,040,000 FW \$300,000	SW \$750,000 FW \$400,000	SW \$750,000 FW \$601,200	SW \$750,000 FW \$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 \$63,000 FW \$27,000	SW \$63,000 FW \$27,000	SW \$63,000 FW \$27,000	SW \$63,000 FW \$27,000	SW \$63,000 FW \$27,000
Licence fee renewal facility – enhanced fee renewal service for anglers.	NSW DPI	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000

Table 3: New Trust Applications supported by RFFTEC for funding

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Burrinjuck Waters State Park fishing shelter project Proposal to provide a fish cleaning shelter at each of the 3 entry boat ramps to Lake Burrinjuck. Motion: The Committee supported funding towards construction of the fish cleaning tables at Burrinjuck Waters State Park, to enhance recreational fishing facilities at the dam. Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.</p>	Burrinjuck Waters State Park	\$17,919	\$0	\$0
Small Grants				
<p>Replacement of fish identification and advice signage at Lake St Clair To provide a replacement fish identification / advice sign at Lake St Clair. Motion: The expenditure committee supported funding to update recreational fishing signage at Lake St Clair boat ramp, installed by the Singleton Fly Fishing Club. The Committee asked that the RFFTEC representative for Region 2 liaise with the DPI Inland Fisheries Manager to ensure the content of the sign meets DPI guidelines Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Richard Ping Kee Carried.</p>	Singleton Fly Fishing Club	\$620	\$0	\$0
<p>Angler access improvements on the Gungarlin River The installation of two fence stiles and signage to allow for and promote access for recreational anglers fishing the Gungarlin River. Motion: The expenditure committee supported funding to install fence stiles and access signage to enhance recreational fishing access at Gungarlin reserve. Moved: Ron Croker Seconded: Richard Ping Kee Carried.</p>	Illawarra Flyfishers' Club	\$4,260	\$0	\$0
<p>Lake Cargelligo "Lets Get Fishing" To construct a fish cleaning table on the shores of Lake Cargelligo and to work with the community to organise a fishing tournament and promote fishing in a safe, environmentally and socially responsible way. Motion: The expenditure committee supported funding for the fish cleaning table component of the project only. The Committee recommended that the applicant contact the DPI Inland Education Officer regarding the proposed presentation to be held at the fishing carnival event. Moved: Max Graham Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.</p>	Lake Cargelligo Amateur Anglers Club Incorporated	\$8,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Provide fish cleaning station, Darlington Point To provide a fish cleaning station for fishers by installing fish cleaning tables with shelters for a better facility Motion: The expenditure committee supported funding of \$5,000 towards development of a fish cleaning table at Darlington Point, to improve recreational fishing facilities at this location. Moved: Max Graham Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.</p>	Murrumbidgee Shire Council	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
<p>The NSW Angler Access Signage project To initiate an angler access signage strategy for the installation of angler access signage to assist anglers in identifying legal angler access locations. In addition the application is for the printing of angler access brochures, section 38 plastic cards and sundries as part of a stakeholder awareness initiative. Motion: The expenditure committee supported funding to install access signage to enhance knowledge of recreational fishing access locations in inland areas. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.</p>	NSW DPI	\$9,411	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Small Grants				
<p>Nyah Recreational Reserve fish cleaning table To build a new fish cleaning table with lighting on the banks of the Murray River at the Nyah Recreation Reserve adjacent to the Football/ Netball/ Cricket/ Harness Racing clubs and next to the local boat ramp. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> of \$5,000 towards development of a fish cleaning table at Nyah, to improve recreational fishing facilities on the Murray River. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Tom Williams Carried.</p>	Nyah Nyah West United Football/Netball Club	\$5,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Small Grants				
<p>Fish Festival (and 50 year celebrations) The Fish Festival event is a celebration of the importance of fish to people living within the Murray-Darling Basin. It provides an opportunity for stakeholders to see first-hand, the work conducted by fisheries researchers, hatchery managers and compliance officers within NSW DPI. It will also help to celebrate the 50th birthday of the Narrandera Fisheries Centre which opened on the 3rd February 1962. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project, which will showcase the Narrandera Fisheries Centre to the broader community and involve the community in a range of fishing research demonstrations and activities Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Richard Ping Kee Carried.</p>	NSW DPI	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Distribution of free Fishing Safety DVDs to freshwater fishing groups, community groups, agencies and other organisations Distribution of bulk copies of fishing safety DVDs to community and angling organisations and other distribution channels. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project subject to NSW DPI co-ordinating the distribution of the DVD with the CFA to all relevant parties. The Committee recommended that all three fishing safety DVD clips be included on the one DVD to maximise exposure. Moved Debbie Lennon, Seconded Ron Butler. Carried.</p>	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Murray cod project – an assessment of Murray cod, fish communities and the effects of stocking in the Border Rivers region of the Murray-Darling River System. The aim of this current project is to quantify the potential effects and benefits of fish stocking, particularly Murray cod, and of the effects of regulated flows on the behaviour of key fish species in a number of rivers within the Border Rivers region. This application is for funding to continue the Border Rivers Murray cod project for a further two years, which is currently part funded by the Trust. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project for one year to continue the Border Rivers Murray cod project. The Committee requested that NSW DPI explore the possibility of funding support for the Murray cod research project in the Border Rivers through the FRDC, as part of a broader study on the status and recruitment of Murray cod with the Murray Darling Basin. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Ron Croker Carried.</p>	NSW DPI	\$50,000		\$0
<p>Resource assessment of the Murray crayfish fishery in NSW and estimation of angler harvest rates Undertake a status assessment of the Murray crayfish fishery in NSW in order to improve fishery management using fishery dependant and independent surveys. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project to conduct the fishery independent survey component only within the range of the current recreational fishery. The dependent survey component using log books or the survey component of the independent survey outside of the range of the current recreational fishery was not supported. Moved: Richard Ping Kee Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.</p>	NSW DPI	\$40,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Small Grant

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Keeping the fish ladders working To clean out the fish ladders in the local area rivers to ensure that local native fish can travel to spawning grounds and back again. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project. Ensuring effective operation of fishways installed at in stream barriers was considered important for recreational fish species passage within the catchment Moved: Ian Ward Seconded: Max Graham Carried.</p>	Gloucester Bowling Club Fishing & Social Club	\$2,240	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Recreational fishing licence fee administration 2012-13 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 expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.</p>	NSW DPI	\$528,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Recreational Fishing Guides: additional funding for removal of advertising To remove paid advertising content from the saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing guides which is currently spread throughout the publication. Removal of advertising from the body of the publications will require an increase to the program budget to compensate for the loss of the major portion of advertising revenue. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project to reduce the level of advertising and improve the flow of information provided within the recreational fishing guides. This will create a more appealing and easier to read publication. Moved: Max Graham Seconded: Ron Butler Carried.</p> <p>Small Grant</p>	NSW DPI	\$15,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Developing mangrove jack as a new key species for freshwater recreational fishing in northern NSW impoundments – a pilot program. The aim of this project is to provide NSW anglers with an exciting new high quality recreational fishing opportunity – mangrove jack in Clarrie Hall Dam. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project to enhance recreational fishing opportunities at Clarrie Hall dam in the future. The project will initially collect Mangrove Jack broodstock from the Tweed River and trial a breeding program for the species at the National Marine Science Centre. It will also conduct a habitat and water quality pre-stocking survey at Clarrie Hall dam. Moved: Ian Ward Seconded: Richard Ping Kee Carried.</p>	National Marine Science Centre (NMSC), Southern Cross University	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>NSW Recreational Fishing Environmental Assessment and Fisheries Management Strategy To carry out a structured and thorough Environmental Assessment of recreational fishing in NSW and develop an associated Fisheries Management Strategy (FMS) to address the environmental risks and guide the future management of the recreational fishery. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>supported funding</u> for this project on completion of the state wide recreational fishing survey, which is to commence later this year. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.</p>	NSW DPI	\$0	\$97,000	\$107,500

Table 4: New Trust Project Applications deferred by RFFTEC**Platform: Recreational fishing education**

Small Grants

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Edward River fish identification signage To install fish identification signs at 10 boat ramps along the Edward River between Four Post Camp and Benarca Bend near Stevens Weir. Motion: The expenditure committee recommended that this application be <u>deferred</u> until the Region 8 Trust representative undertakes a field inspection of the area and the location for future signage is clarified with the District Fisheries Officer. The Committee also asked that the content of future signage is determined in consultation with the Inland Fisheries Manager, to ensure consistency with fishing rules and other signage. Moved: Max Graham Seconded: Ron Croker Carried.	Deniliquin RSL Fishing Club	\$5,616	\$0	\$0
Welby Dams 1 & 2 reinstall balustrade to dam walls Re-affix balustrading to dam walls at Welby 1 & 2 to facilitate angler / hiker access. Motion: The expenditure committee recommended that this application is <u>deferred</u> as more information regarding the project is required. The Committee asked that the Region 3 representative investigate the status of the project in consultation with the Inland Fisheries Manager, the fish acclimatisation society and Council. The expenditure committee recommended that Council provide a letter of support for the project and that any public risk associated with the installation of the balustrade is identified and addressed prior to re-submission of the funding application. Moved: Max Graham Seconded: Kevin McKinnon Carried.	Berrima District Acclimatisation Society (BDAS)	\$7,500	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Small Grants

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Euabalong Lachlan River rejuvenation and education project To assist in eradicating carp from the Lachlan River. The Club will replace the fish by purchasing various fingerlings native to this area. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>referred</u> this application for assessment under the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program. The Committee did not support funding for the on-ground carp control fishing event Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Ron Croker Carried.	Euabalong Amateur Anglers Club	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
Replenish fish stocks Murray Downs The local waterways have been badly affected by recent black water events, following severe flooding. It is proposed to buy fingerlings and release them into the Murray River to help replenish stock of Murray Cod and Golden Perch. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>referred</u> this application for assessment under the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program. Moved: Richard Ping Kee Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.	Murray Downs Angling Club	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Small Grants

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Restocking Billabong Creek, Jerilderie with native fish The Jerilderie Fishing Club has undertaken to restock the local waterways. In November 2011 the club released 5000 Murray Cod fingerlings into the Billabong Creek. This restocking is part of larger plan and the Club are applying for funding to release a further 10,000 fingerlings in 2012 into the Billabong Creek and Yanko Creek. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>referred</u> this application for assessment under the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Ron Butler Carried.</p>	Jerilderie Sports Club	\$6,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Walbundrie District Anglers Association Restocking 2012 To restock the Billabong Creek with Murray cod and golden perch at 3 locations between Walbundrie and Bulgandra. The expenditure committee <u>referred</u> this application for assessment under the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program. Moved: Tom Williams Seconded: Max Graham Carried.</p>	Walbundrie District Anglers Association	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Enhancing the Lachlan– Improving recreational fisheries in the Lachlan River adjacent to the Cowra CBD The project will enhance recreational fisheries in the Lachlan River adjacent to the Cowra CBD. It will also improve access to the site for both anglers and recreational visitors. Motion: The expenditure committee <u>referred</u> this application for assessment under the habitat action program Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Max Graham Carried.</p>	Cowra Shire Council	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Table 5 - New Trust Project Applications not supported by RFFTEC

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Camden Town Farm lagoon accessible fishing platform Install a fully accessible fishing platform and footpath at the Camden Town Farm lagoon to improve access for recreational fishers and the removal of introduced carp and noxious weeds. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project as the project budget appeared unclear and was lacking some essential details. The committee questioned whether or not the facility was presently open to the public, what the opening hours of the facility would be and whether or not it would be open to the public without charge. The footpath component of the application was considered to be a general public amenity which should be the funding responsibility of Council. Moved: Ian Ward Seconded: Tom Williams Carried.</p>	Camden Council	\$28,000	\$0	\$0
<p>New fishing platform for Wee Waa Lagoon Improving the fishing facilities at Wee Waa Lagoon through the construction of a fishing platform. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project. The Committee questioned the water quality within the lagoon as the lagoon appeared to be relatively shallow and was isolated from the Namoi River, thereby possibly subject to drought conditions. The susceptibility of the lagoon to storm water runoff was also noted, given its proximity to a residential area. There was also a comparatively low funding contribution from Council towards the project and angler access appeared already available at the lagoon. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Debbie Lennon Carried.</p>	Narrabri Shire Council	\$59,675	\$4,080	\$0
<p>Upgrade Sepoy Boat Ramp To upgrade current granite ramp to give access to all fisherman (not only four wheel drive owners) to the excellent fishing and water sports that Copeton Waters provides. RFFTEC supported the proposal but did not <u>did not support</u> funding for this project and recommended it be referred to the NSW Maritime 'Better Boating Program' in consultation with the Angling Facilities Manager. Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Ron Butler Carried.</p>	Copeton Waters State Park	\$53,340	\$0	\$0
<p>Deniliquin Recreational Fishing Educational Park The project seeks to improve the Deniliquin Lagoon to provide a key educational facility to aid in supporting and promoting recreational fishing within the area; to provide training and education of local fish species; to provide a facility for practise and training of recreational fishing in safe and secure area; and showcase the area for recreational fishing opportunities. The Committee questioned the water quality within the waterway which appeared disconnected from the main channel of the Edward River. The committee also questioned the location and accessibility of the site to the public, noting that the Edward River may be a more suitable location for a casting platform than the Lagoon. Motion: Richard Ping Kee Seconded: Kevin McKinnon Carried.</p>	Deniliquin RSL Fishing Club	\$60,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Bridge to provide 10km's recreational fishing access Construct footbridge over Flanagan's Creek to Browns Island to provide recreational anglers with access to 10km's of Crown water frontages along the Murray River, Flanagans Creek and snag-filled Wodonga Creek. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project as construction of footbridges was considered to be a general public amenity and local Council should have funding responsibility for this type of project. There did not appear to be a funding contribution from Council towards the project. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Richard Ping Kee Carried.</p>	Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Public access to inland rivers in the Western Division The aim of the project is to identify Crown Land sites along the inland rivers of NSW that will allow access for the public to undertake a range of recreational activities.. In addition, signage will be erected for selected sites and a publication produced that provides site details, available infrastructure and facilities. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project. The Committee noted that public access within this region was limited and the location of Crown Reserves has previously been identified by the Angler Access manager. The project was considered a duplication of the Angler Access Managers role (web delivery of access locations in NSW and site details is planned in the future by the Angler Access Manager). The project also seeks funding to promote farm stay and farm tourism opportunities, which is not considered a funding priority of the Trust. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Max Graham Carried.</p>	Crown Lands (NSW DPI)	\$41,081	\$30,825	\$61,271
<p>Fishing Platform (Floating Pontoon) at Darlington Point on the Murrumbidgee River Using a floating pontoon, provide a fishing platform for residents and tourists adjacent to the town beach and other riverside recreational areas. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project. The footpath component of the application was considered to be a general public amenity which should be the funded by Council. The method of protecting the structure from flood damage over the longer term was also not clearly specified within the application. Moved: Richard Ping Kee Seconded: Ron Croker Carried.</p>	Murrumbidgee Shire Council	\$34,950	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Small Grant

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Narrandera Anglers 'Get in Touch' In line with the anglers access program this project will identify legal angler access locations and promote freshwater fishing sites in Narrandera. This will be achieved through a site verification conducted on behalf of Fisheries NSW and development of a brochure with associated map which will be downloadable from the internet. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project as it appeared to duplicate the role of the existing Angler Access Manager, currently funded by the Trust. The Committee noted that angler access points within this region have previously been identified by the Angler Access manager. The Angler Access Manager is currently developing an access strategy to install access advisory signage at access locations across NSW including the Narrandera region. Moved: Ian Ward Seconded: Kevin McKinnon Carried.</p>	Narrandera Shire Council	\$8,300	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>'Do it for the Fish' Develop and deliver a comprehensive targeted education program to assist recreational fishers to identify and report aquatic weeds that interfere with recreational fishing and avoid spreading them between fishing spots. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project. The expenditure committee noted there are currently a range of publications on weed species produced by NSW DPI and other groups, which can be referenced by anglers. Moved: Richard Ping Kee Seconded: Ian Ward Carried.</p>	WetlandCare Australia	\$78,000	\$19,500	\$0

Small Projects

<p>Native fish, habitat, and endangered species awareness cards Repeat production of native fish awareness cards (co designed by the DPI) to be further distributed to schools, clubs, the local fisheries education trailer, and into hospitality based venues across much of central NSW. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project. The expenditure committee did not consider the project a funding priority at this time, given the range of recreational fishing publications already available for recreational fishers. Moved: Ian Ward Seconded: Tom Williams Carried.</p>	Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association	\$4,202	\$0	\$0
<p>The Mathoura educational freshwater aquarium The project involves the establishment of a freshwater aquarium in Mathoura, to raise awareness and educate fishermen, visitors and students about native fish and sustainable recreational fishing. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project. The Committee acknowledged the educational benefits of a live fish display however did not consider it a Trust priority at this time. The Committee noted the biological requirements of native freshwater recreational species and operation of aquarium systems, such as plumbing, re-circulation and water quality monitoring can be complex and the application did not specify the technical aspects of managing the display over the longer term. The Committee noted that funding could also set precedence for other aquarium or aquaculture facilities, which was considered outside the scope of the Trust. Moved: Max Graham Seconded: Richard Ping Kee Carried.</p>	Mathoura Visitor and Business Centre / Murray Shire Council	\$7,216	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Small Project

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Risk Assessment on impacts of fishing in Prospect Reservoir to drinking water quality This application and subsequent funding will allow the Sea Bees to engage a company to conduct a Risk Assessment on the impacts of fishing to the drinking water quality of Prospect Reservoir. Sea Bees Boating Club wishes to propose to the NSW Government and the Sydney Catchment Authority to grant limited access to Prospect reservoir for the purposes of fishing. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for the project as the Sydney Catchment Authority did not appear to have been consulted about the risk assessment. Prior consultation with and approval by the Sydney Catchment Authority is considered essential for the issue to be progressed beyond the period of the risk assessment. The Committee asked that the issue of future access to Prospect Reservoir for recreational fishing is discussed at the next meeting of the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing. Moved: Ron Croker Seconded: Richard Ping Kee Carried.</p>	Sea Bees Boating Club	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Trout fry/fingerling transporter units Acquisition of two live fish transporter units that will help the thirteen Monaro Acclimatisation Society branch members to successfully carry out transportation and release of trout fingerlings and fry supplied by Gaden Trout Hatchery. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project. Two existing fish transporters at Gaden It was noted that two existing fish transporters situated at the Gaden hatchery (a 500 litre tank and 1,500 litre tank) were available for use by the MAS for river stockings. NSW DPI will continue to work in conjunction with the MAS to conduct fish releases in the region. Gaden hatchery staff can assist with MAS stockings if members are unable to stock fish, as has previously occurred. Moved: Tom Williams Seconded: Ron Croker Carried.</p>	Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc.	\$10,255	\$0	\$0

Small projects

<p>Fish stocking fuel support program To subsidise members of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society for fuel expenses incurred during fish stocking events. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project. The Committee did not support funding for this project as it would set a precedent for payment of fuel expenses for all community groups involved in fish stocking, including the other fish acclimatisation societies, which was outside of the scope of the Trust. The Committee considered that fuel costs associated with fish stocking events should be the responsibility of stocking groups involved in the activity, as is presently the case for all community fish stockings in NSW. Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Max Graham Carried.</p>	Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc	\$2,100	\$0	\$0
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Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Recreational Fishing Safety Officer Project The ongoing promotion of fishing safety, from coastal rock platforms, beaches, rivers or alpine lakes is essential so that all recreational fishers are aware of advancements in technologies around personal or fishing related safety and equipment. Involves recruitment of a dedicated safety officer to run a series of fishing safety programs. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project as the application appeared to be focused on rock fishing and saltwater initiatives rather than freshwater fishing safety programs. Moved: Kevin McKinnon Seconded: Ron Croker Carried.	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	\$79,000 FW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Australian Boater Survey Proposed is a NSW state module of a national research project called the Australian Boater Survey. The NSW module will establish the economic value of recreational boating and fishing in NSW. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding for this project at this stage and it was recommended that the Association submit a national funding application to FRDC for the project. Moved: Richard Ping Kee Seconded: Max Graham Carried.	Boating Industries Alliance Australia and the Marina Industries Association of Australia	\$16,250 FW \$48,750 SW	\$16,250 FW \$48,750 SW	\$18,250 FW \$54,750 SW
Never miss a bite: Development of strong, ultra-sharp, inexpensive fish hooks from new patented metal alloys. To build and mechanically test prototypes of fish hooks using new metal alloys. The project will potentially lead to the development of the world's first surgically-sharp hook leaving no environmental contamination. Motion: RFFTEC <u>did not support</u> funding as it was considered outside the scope of the Trust. Moved: Debbie Lennon Seconded: Kevin McKinnon Carried.	University of New South Wales	\$15,098 FW \$45,294 SW	\$0	\$0

Action items – RFFTEC 40th meeting

Action items	Group Responsible	Status
1. For ACoRF to consider the issue of producing one recreational fishing guide in place of two fishing guides, as much of the advisory information contained within the guides appears to be replicated.	Rec Mgt / ACoRF	Completed
2. That NSW DPI explore the possibility of funding support for the Murray cod research project in the Border Rivers through the FRDC, as part of a broader study on the status and recruitment of Murray cod with the Murray Darling Basin.	Aquatic Ecosystems Research	Completed
3. That the issue of access to Prospect Reservoir for future recreational fishing is discussed at the next ACoRF meeting and that ACoRF consults with the Minister in future in relation to this matter.	Rec Mgt / ACoRF	Completed
4. For Mr Ron Butler to liaise with the Fisheries Manager regarding the content of advisory signage at Lake St Clair, to ensure consistency with fishing rules and other signage.	Singleton Fly Fishing Club / Rec Mgt	Pending
5. For Mr Kevin McKinnon to undertake an audit of fisheries advisory signage at Deniliquin in co-ordination with the District Fisheries Officer and Deniliquin Fishing Club to determine signage requirements and to liaise with the Fisheries Manager to ensure consistency with fishing rules and other signage.	Region 8 rep / Rec Mgt	Completed
6. For Mr Ron Croker to investigate the status of the project to affix balustrading to the dam walls at the Welby Dams in consultation with the Berrima District Acclimatisation Society and Wingecarribee Shire Council and any associated public risk assessment requirements of the project.	Region 3 rep / Rec Mgt	Pending