

## Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) meeting outcomes (draft)

**Meeting Number:** 74      **Date:** 9 April 2025      **Time:** 9:00am – 2:00pm  
**Location:** The Branksome Hotel, 60 Robey Street, Mascot  
**Invitees:** Bruce Schumacher AM (Chair), Max Graham (Region 1), Ron Butler (Region 2), Ron Croker (Region 3), Michael Davey (Region 4), Paul Mullen (Region 5), Debbie Lennon (Region 6), Jasen Ramien (Region 7), Troy Bright (Region 8), Brett Richards (Professional Fishing Instructors & Guides Association), Simon Clark (A/Director DPIRD Fisheries and Aquaculture Management)

### 1. Chair's introduction, welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

Michael Davey, Ron Croker, Jasen Ramien, Simon Clark

### 3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> RFFTEC meeting held on 4 December 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Max Graham, Seconded Troy Bright, Carried.**

### 4. Recreational Fishing Trust items

#### a. Status of the Freshwater Trust

The financial status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members.

#### b. Licence holder survey

The Minister previously announced DPIRD will undertake a licence holder survey to seek feedback on current Trust programs and new priorities for expenditure in the future. The survey is now complete and a summary of survey results was provided to the Committee by DPIRD.

#### c. Status of Trust projects

A summary of current active and recently completed Trust projects was provided for RFFTEC's information.

**d. Current Trust funding round**

A total of 41 new Freshwater Trust grant applications were received following the Minister's announcement of the Recreational Fishing Trust funding round on 6 November 2024. The funding round included the \$2 million recreational fishing small infrastructure grants program for projects such as fishing platforms, fish cleaning tables, fishing access tracks, kayak launching platforms and other fishing facilities. Recommendations for funding with respect to each project (Table 1) will be provided to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration prior to submission to the Minister for approval.

**e. Project variations**

The 2024/25 Habitat Action Grants (HAG) funding round (under Project DPIJ066 Habitat Action Program) had not yet opened due to delays caused by several factors. DPIRD sought a project variation for any unused 2024/25 grant allocation to be made available for HAG projects in 2025/26 and 2026/27 within the current 3-year life of the program if the annual HAG budget is fully subscribed and excess quality proposals identified. RFFTEC did not support the project variation. **Moved Paul Mullen, Seconded Brett Richards, Carried.**

**5. General business**

Members requested an update on the Minister's consideration of additional information for some Trust applications. DPIRD advised these Trust applications were still under consideration.

**Action item:** RFNSW to write to the Minister regarding the applications that are still under consideration. **Moved Brett Richards, seconded Max Graham, carried.**

**Action item:** RFFTEC requested that an OzFish member provides a presentation on the 'Driving Fish Habitat Action – a Landcare NSW / OzFish community partnership' project at a future meeting. **Moved Debbie Lennon, seconded Max Graham, carried.**