**RFLTAC Meeting #53 of 8 May 2023**

**Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee Meeting #53**

**Location: Shepparton/Arcadia Hatchery**

**Chairperson's Summary**

This was the 53rd meeting of the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee.

Key items discussed included:

* Confirmation of support for 2022-23 RFGP Commissioning and Large Grant applications (from previous meeting).
* Fish Stocking Update.
* Election Commitment Planning

**Confirmation of support for 2022-23 RFGP Commissioning and Large Grant applications (from previous meeting).**

The Advisory Committee confirmed their support for 10 large grant applications (totalling $1,233,563 GST inclusive), and 2 commissioning grant applications (totally $403,692 GST not applicable) to be recommended to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation for funding from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account.

**Fish Stocking Update**

The committee were provided with information on the challenges that the VFA had faced during the 2022-23 fish stocking season. In summary, unusual seasonal conditions in spring 2022, has affected the breeding and production of fish across all farms involved in meeting the VFA’s supply and stocking targets.

Despite a range of mitigation actions being put in place, the VFA could not meet its stocking target of 10 million fish, with the stocking total for the 2022-23 season being in the vicinity of 8.2 million fish.

**Election Commitment Planning**

The committee were provided with information on several key election commitments including $10M to expand the Northern Native Fish Hatchery at Arcadia and $5M to Build new facilities at the Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery to increase production of Macquarie perch and trout cod. The additional works to build a conservation hatchery at Snobs Creek with funding from DEECA (ARI support) was also outlined.

**Next meeting:** 23 October 2023

Julia Menzies

Chairperson

Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee