**RFGWG Meeting #40 of 4 December 2019**

**Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group Meeting #40**

**Location: 1 Spring Street Melbourne**

**Chairperson's Summary**

This was the 40th meeting of the Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group.

Key items discussed included:

* RFL Small Grants Program. Update and Review
* 2018-19 RFL Trust Account Report to Parliament.
* Native Fish Hatchery Update
* VFA Event Delivery/WIRF Update
* RFGP Marketing and Communications Update
* Snobs Creek Annual Report
* Recreational Fishing Licence Program Review

**RFL Small Grants Program. Update and Review**

The Working Group were provided with information on the uptake of the Small Grants program. The 2018-19 financial year saw 36 projects funded for a total of $78,677, and the first half of the current financial year has seen 22 projects funded for a total of $43,450.

**2018-19 RFL Trust Account Report to Parliament.**

The Working Group were advised that the 2018-19 RFL Trust Account had been completed and had been tabled in Parliament on the on the 27th November 2019.

**Native Fish Hatchery Update**

The Working Group were provided with information on the progression of the State Government’s election commitment to build a new native fish hatchery near Shepparton. To date a range of key steps had been completed including groundwater investigation, site selection and hatchery design. At the time of the meeting a preferred site had been identified and was very close to being secured.

**VFA Event Delivery/WIRF Update**

The Working Group were provided with a summary of the events that the VFA had staged and/or was involved with in 2019 as well as the progress of the Women in Recreational Fishing (WIRF) network.

**RFGP Marketing and Communications Update**

The Working Group were provided with an update on how projects funded through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program are promoted by the VFA on various social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram, and how successful these campaigns are. They were also shown examples of how the program is promoted through recreational fishing print media such as Victorian Fishing Monthly and Freshwater Fishing magazine. They were also informed that the VFA had launched a new podcast channel – the ‘Poddy Mullet’, and that this would provide future opportunities to promote the Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

**Snobs Creek Annual Report**

The 2018-19 Snobs Creek Annual Report was tabled at this meeting. It highlights the successes that the Snobs Creek Hatchery achieved during the last financial year, which culminated in a record stocking of over 6.9 million fish to improve recreational fishing in Victoria.

**Recreational Fishing Licence Program Review**

A representative from Marsden Jacobs Associates provided a presentation on the outcomes and recommendations stemming from the recent review that they conducted into the Recreational Fishing Licence Program and Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

**Next meeting:** 25th March 2020

David Grisold

Chairperson

Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group