**RFLTAC Meeting #55 of 22 April 2024**

**Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee Meeting #55**

**Location: Level 1, 1 Spring Street**

**Chairperson's Summary**

This was the 55th meeting of the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee.

Key items discussed included:

* Stronger Fishing Clubs Grants/Little Angler Kits update
* 2022-23 RFLTA Report to Parliament
* RFL Sales Update
* Assessment of 2022-23 RFGP Commissioning grant applications
* Assessment of 2022-23 RFGP Large grant applications

**Stronger Fishing Clubs Grants/Little Angler Kits update**

The committee received an update on both programs, which received funding allocations from the RFL Trust Account in 2023-24. Round One of the Stronger Fishing Clubs grant program saw $300,600 provided to 32 clubs for a range of projects. The Little Angler Kits program provided 95,000 Year 5 students across Victoria with fishing starter kits, for a cost of 1.5M to the RFL Trust Account. Considerable feedback has been received on this program which indicates that it has been very popular and well received by students, parents, and schools.

**2022-23 RFLTA Report to Parliament**

The committee was informed that the 2022-23 RFLTA Report to Parliament had been tabled in February 2023 and is available on the VFA website as a public document. The Report contains a financial statement for all income and expenditure associated with the Trust Account for the 2022-23 financial year, including a listing of all grant payments that were made.

**RFL Sales Update**

The committee were provided an update on Recreational Fishing Licence sales over the last few months. Overall licence sales for the 2023-24 have been strong with a potential to be higher than the last couple of years.

**Assessment of 2023-24 RFGP Commissioning grant applications**

The Advisory Committee indicated general support for the two commissioning bids that were received in this round for the following amounts:

* $169,300 for Informing sustainable management and optimisation of Victoria’s wild catch marine and estuarine recreational fisheries
* $278,012 for Communication and Compliance Products.

**Assessment of 2023-24 RFGP Large grant applications**

The Advisory Committee were presented with the results of the qualitative assessments which showed how each of the 17 large grant applications have been collectively scored by the group and how they ranked in order. Comment and discussions were had regarding the merit of all 17 applications, and a short list of applications was prepared, which are likely to be recommended for funding.

Subsequent to some additional information being obtained regarding several applications, the Advisory Committee will recommend that 15 projects from the 2023-24 Large Grants round are funded for a total of $953,483 (GST inclusive) from the RFL Trust Account.

**Next meeting:** To be advised.

Julia Menzies

Chairperson

Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee