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NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INCORPORATED MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING – 20 FEBRUARY 2009 HOTEL KEMPSEY 151 CORRIMAL ST KEMPSEY

Present

Steve Samuels (President), Ron Butler (SFC) Radge Diakiw (SFR), Bob Dove (MNC), Max Graham (RFFTEC), Mark Guest (BK), Ben Hicks (MNC) Rod Hicks (MNC) John Humphries (RFS) Laurie Muldoon (NETAS) Don Salter (Lakeside), Rodney Tonkin (OTAS), Allan Wilcox (BK)

Invited Guests:

Charlotte Jenkins (DPI), Cameron Westaway, (DPI).

1. Welcome and Commencement

Prior to commencing the meeting Steve Samuels called for a moments silence as a show of respect for all those who suffered and lost their lives in the Victorian bushfires. Steve Samuels welcomed delegates and invited guests and noting the presence of Laurie Muldoon looked forward to developing closer ties with NETAS. The meeting commenced at 9.45am.

Apologies

Ian Andrews, Chris Beale, Patrick Brennan, Peter Gibson, Jim Gilchrist, Daryl Girling, Alan Izzard Peter Kelly, Terry Maloney, Ben Nieuwerth, Malcolm Poole, John Ploski, Karl Schaerf, Bill Spiers, Nick Taransky, Lofty Tottenham, Betty Williams and Tom Williams

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the General Meeting of 15 November 2008 were adopted. (Diakiw/Schaerf)

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM 15 NOVEMBER 2008 MEETING

3.1 Gaden Hatchery Update.

The Council noted the 18 December media release from Minister Macdonald stating, among other things, that the immediate future of Gaden Hatchery had been secured and thanking Steve Samuels from the NSW CFA for helping achieve this outcome. Steve Samuels advised the Council that since that time, discussions had been held on matters including establishing a legal framework that will guarantee the future of the hatchery, developing a business plan for the hatchery and the possible

makeup of the board of management of the hatchery. However, he was unable to provide more details on the options being considered whilst a more refined proposal was being developed.

Steve Samuels acknowledged that a number of recreational anglers had objected to RFFTEC rather than Departmental funds being used to secure the future of Gaden Hatchery (See Attachment 2, Background Papers). But since the Minister had refused to countenance Departmental funds being used to maintain Gaden Hatchery into the future, funding through RFFTEC offered a viable alternative particularly if recreational anglers had a much greater role in the management of the hatchery. Steve Samuels advised the Council that consultations with the Minister, his staff and his Department, whilst being difficult, had been made easier because of the unprecedented outcry from recreational anglers and others to the proposed closure of Gaden. He thanked the NSW CFA delegates and many others who wrote letters and signed petitions and in particular Robert Brown of the Shooters Party, who participated in initial meetings with the Minister. Steve Samuels undertook to provide details of any proposals to the Council, as they were developed, when he was in a position to do so.

3.2 Fence Stiles

C Westaway advised the Council that he expected the first of the fence stiles to be erected on site over the next month or so as negotiations with landowners were finalised.

3.3 Freshwater Safety DVD

R Diakiw advised the Council that much of the filming for the DVD had been completed although it may still be necessary to get some winter shots of some alpine lakes. Kaj Bush and Andrew Ettingshausen had agreed to participate.

3.4 Illegal Removal of Snags from Murray River

C Westaway advised the Council that the NSW government was proceeding towards its goal of prosecuting those responsible for the illegal clearing of snags from the Murray River near Corowa. He was unable to advise the Council when the legal proceedings would commence and he envisaged consultations with recreational anglers, particularly SWAA on their concerns with the slowness of the prosecution process and the quality of the remediation work (See Region 6 Report).

3.5 Political Party Interactions

The Council expressed its disappointment in relation to the way the State Government has treated recreational anglers with disdain, particularly in relation to the government's ill considered proposal to sell off the Gaden Hatchery. The Council agreed that in the future, it would take a more

proactive role in its dealings with political parties at the state and federal level so that it could better influence these parties for the benefit of its members. Although the details of such an approach were yet to be finalised, options to be considered include:

- establishing an infrastructure to respond immediately and effectively to threats such as the proposed sell off of the Gaden Hatchery;
- building closer ties with smaller parties and independents who may have the balance of power in some circumstances; and
- alerting members and the general community about the advantages and disadvantages of each parties policies related to recreational angling so that members are better informed.

3.6 Access Conference

R Tonkin advised the Council that he and Malcolm Poole of the RFA and Recfish were seeking funding from the FRDC as well as consulting with DPI and other agencies to progress this conference and that the outcome of the proposal would be announced shortly.

3.7 RFA Future Leaders Project

The Council noted that the **New South Wales Young Future Leaders in Recreational Fishing** workshop, initiated by RFA NSW was being conducted in Coffs Harbour over the last week.

3.8 Golden Gully.

The Council agreed that this item be next considered only when there were new developments.

3.9 Redfin – NSWCFCA Approach.

Noting that VEAC had developed a policy on Redfin, the Council agreed to form a working group including Steve Samuels and Rodney Tonkin to develop a draft policy to present to the Council for consideration. Delegates were asked to provide suggestions.

3.10 Freshwater Fisher Funding Proposals.

The Council noted external funding the Freshwater Fisher was yet to be achieved and that a range of commercial options were being investigated. The Council acknowledged that such commercial options could increase the circulation of the Freshwater Fisher significantly by say publicising the outcomes of ACoRF and its expenditure committees more widely as well as activities funded by these committees.

3.11 EHNV Research - NSWCFA Involvement.

S Samuels distributed kits for collecting samples of samples of redfin and goldfish caught in the Murray Darling Basin as part of a project to better understand the threat of Epizootic Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (EHNV) to native fish species in the Murray Darling Basin. S Samuels advised that the kits contained instructions on how to collect, store and dispatch samples to Professor Richard Whittington at Sydney University, one of the researchers involved in this project. The Council reaffirmed its support of this project and agreed to encourage its members and others to participate. Further sample kits are available from S Samuels.

4. REPORTS

4.1. Interclub Report

The report from J Humphries advised the Council that preparations were underway for the 2009 Interclub to again be held at the Black Gold Country Cabins at Wallerawang from 1 to 3 May 2009 and Ross Salvato has again agreed to be the prime sponsor. The report is available on the NSWCFA website.

4.2 Regional Reports

The following regional Reports were presented:

Region 2

Things have taken a turn for the better here in Sydney lately. Just recently we received notice that most of the weirs on the Nepean will be modified to allow for environmental flows and part of the project includes either new fishways or improvements on existing fishways on each of those weirs. Hopefully this will not only allow for better fish passage but possibly help the awful weed problem the river suffers each summer.

Bass Sydney members held a Bass catch on the Lane Cove River recently, 14 members for a catch of 7 fish in a total of 57 fishing hours. The good part of that was that there were some smaller fish, between 100 & 200mm so we knew that there had been some recruitment in the last couple of years. Andrew Duffy, NPWS ranger at Lane Cove briefed us before the event on the alteration to be made to the weir and fishway there as well and showed us the plans. Work was to commence the following Monday Feb. 9.

I have had talks with Charlotte Jenkins, Aquatic Habitat Manager for DPI and we are trying to organise a meeting with the other Bass Clubs in the Sydney region so she can brief us on the "Fisher for Fish Habitat" project and hopefully the other clubs might also become involved.

2 BS members attended a meeting recently at Mamre House regarding the ongoing revegetation of the creek, I have not received a report back from those members as yet.

I have decided that due to work pressures I will not stand for re-election as President of Bass Sydney at their next AGM. As far as the CFA is concerned I am prepared to keep the status quo but I doubt you will see me very often, I just cannot afford to take so much time off to go on long weekend road trips to meetings that is why I am not at this meeting.

Alan Izzard.

Region 5

Hi to all

Still cannot get direct answer from Council re Golden Gully.

Water Storage in central west still very low,
Wyangala 9%, Burrendong 21%, Carcoar 11%.

The idea of pumping from these storages to Orange seems a pie in the sky. As one councillor said it would drought proof Orange and Cadia mine, but the councillor would not discuss the implications for environmental flows for the rivers and nobody seems to care about the towns downstream of these Impoundments.

Tom Williams.

Region 6

I would like to raise some issues from the November meeting, referring to the Agenda for this one on 21/2/09 at Kempsey.

Item 3.1

1. Do we now own the hatchery or are only paying the wages etc.
2. Will the sale of any fingerlings produced for either Victoria or the dollar for dollar program. go back into the TRUST FUND
3. What will we get back from DPI(NSW Government) for our \$500,000.00

Item 3.4

There is considerable dissent down along the Murray regards the prosecutions of the people or persons who destroyed the 4 Kilometres of river frontage.

The \$70,000 was cheap to clear the water to a depth of 1.5 meters below the high summer flow mark of the Murray River. Many of our members are now starting to worry if these people will be prosecuted to the full letter of the law by the both State and Federal bodies.

What is being done about the riparian vegetation to repair that damage caused by the clearing, etc. We expect an update from this meeting from

Glenn Triton DPI and his team. At the very least some contact is made either to Terry Maloney, Daryl Girling or me.

Item 6.6 General business- To be put on meeting agenda as seems to have got lost.

1. Online conferences Skype

We would be happy to pay an online fee as it is cheaper than transverse across the state. I think this needs more effort by the executive.

2. Veac (Rivers & Red Gum Environment Alliance)

Whilst we may have lost temporarily to the Brumby government re the establishment of the 4 Natural Parks. We will be seeking amendments. Black Saturday as we now know it is our darkest day in our countries history. Our sympathies go to all those who have lost family, friends, property and animals. Also don't forget the native wild life lost that can never be replaced

The people (us) can no longer sit back and let the greenies convince the governments of the day to **lock it up and leave it.** We have seen many towns disappear from our sites due to DSE not carrying out adequate fuel reduction or the governments implementing the findings from all the other fires over the last 50 years.

What has this to do with the NSW CFA you maybe thinking; well it's simply this we must endeavour to protect all our forest and red gums on this side of the Murray River. This should be through cattle grazing and forestry management as has been carried out by communities for 150 years.

The natural parks association of NSW, the wilderness society and other green groups and flat out now as you read this trying to LOCK IT UP AND LEAVE IT on our side NSW.

I would sooner lose some native animals, flora and fauna than lose the lot to fire through very poor management strategies.

OUR FIGHT HAS JUST BEGUN

Chris Beale SWAA

4.3 Treasurers Report

4.3.1 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council adopted the financial report (See Attachment 1)

4.3.2 Out of Pocket Expenses.

The Council endorsed the quarterly payment of out of pocket expenses of \$150 each to the Secretary and President.

4.4 Background Papers

Background papers that were circulated to delegates before the meeting or presented at the meeting are at Attachment 2

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Significant items of outgoing correspondence included:

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Minibudget Implications.

R Diakiw advised the Council that he was unable to find any document in the public domain which detailed how the measures brought in by the government in its minibudget impact on recreational anglers. C Westaway advised that he was not aware of any such detailed public document being produced. The Council considered that this lack of transparency displayed by the government/DPI was yet another reason for the NSW CFA to become more politically active (See Agenda 3.5).

6.2 Recfish Australia – Affiliate Membership.

The Council agreed to seek Associate Membership of Recfish Australia at a cost of \$110. The Council took this action as one way of demonstrating its support for a having a properly funded national body representing recreational anglers at a time when the federal government would soon withdraw its financial support to Recfish Australia.

6.3 Tillegra Dam.

In response to an announcement that a coalition of groups had been formed recently to try and prevent the construction of the Tillegra Dam across the Williams River, the Council endorsed the statement below developed by P Gibson on behalf of the Council.

The NSW CFA understands that the construction of Tillegra Dam is probably inevitable due to increasing water demands in the Hunter and on the Central Coast. Accordingly we have not opposed its construction, despite the fact that it will harm the Williams River and fish passage in that river.

In order to salvage something from the situation, the NSW CFA's Bill Spiers sought and was granted meetings with Hunter Water Corporation on future management issues. NSW CFA member organisation Hunter Native Fish attended the meetings (delegate Peter Hughes).

From those meetings we learned that the construction of a fishway or fish lock on the dam wall was impractical due to the height of the wall, the enormous expense and the possibility of failure of such a

system. Therefore the NSW CFA supported the view that the best option would be to artificially stock the dam for recreational fishing. Hunter Water Corporation has previously indicated that it will allow angling access on the dam, will pay for stocking of the dam (commencing once the dam reaches 10% capacity) and also agreed to assist with other fish passage issues on the Williams and other rivers in the area. Those discussions have not been confirmed in writing but we will be pursuing Hunter Water Corporation in 2009 to follow up and cement those agreements.

Despite the success in achieving these trade-offs, the NSW CFA would rather NOT see the dam built as it will damage the Williams River. We understand that there is a coalition of organisations fighting its construction, but we believe they have a very low chance of success. Nonetheless we would be pleased if they do succeed and we do not oppose their campaign in any way.

6.4 Proposed development on the Murrumbidgee River.

As a result in part to the concerns expressed by NSW CFA and others, C Westaway advised the Council that he had tried and been unable to contact the principals of the Silver Brumby Riverside Country Estate about the Estates plans for developing rural residential blocks along the Murrumbidgee River near Bredbo. Of particular concern was the Estates claim that "All landholders on the Estate have exclusive access to the Murrumbidgee River" C Westaway further advised that he had been assured that the Department of Lands had not given the Silver Brumby Riverside Country Estate exclusive access to the sections of the Murrumbidgee River adjoining the Estate. He is still seeking to clarify this matter with the Estate.

6.5 NSW Licence Fee

The Council noted the NSW Fishing licence fee had not been altered for a number of years. The Council considered that a review of the current licence fee, how it operated and how revenue from the fee was used was appropriate. The Council looked forward to the opportunity to consult with the Minister on matters including:

The level of the fee

The merit of having different rates for overseas and interstate visitors

Who should get concessional rates or be exempt

6.6 Biosecurity Review

R Tonkin provided a brief summary of "One Security – A Working Partnership", a review of Australia's quarantine and biosecurity arrangements, released by the Australian Government in September 2008 (See Attachment 2, Background Papers). The Council thanked R Tonkin for his untiring efforts in ensuring AQIS took the Didymo threat seriously.

6.7 Chowilla Creek Regulator

The Council noted that the South Australian government was considering installing a regulator in Chowilla Creek, an anabranch of the Murray River near the NSW border. The Council was concerned that this regulator could inhibit the natural breeding cycle of the Murray Cod in the surrounding area. The Council agreed to ask the SA government to reconsider its proposal.

6.8 Banning the Sale of Unmodified Yabby Traps

Further to the initiative of K Schaerf, the Council noted that NSW DPI required Opera house style yabby traps, where they are allowed to be used, to be modified to prevent wildlife such as turtles and platypus being trapped and drowned. The council considered that such wildlife would be better protected if the government, rather than just requiring traps to be modified, banned the sale on unmodified yabby traps. The Council agreed to ask the government to ban the sale of unmodified yabby traps.

7. GUEST SPEAKER – Charlotte Jenkins Conservation Manager Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation NSW DPI

Charlotte Jenkins provided an overview of the work of the habitat rehabilitation unit work on improving fish habitats through initiatives such as the Fish Friendly Farms program, removing or remediating impediments to fish passage such as road crossings and weirs and initiatives that highlighted the importance of having healthy riparian and instream ecosystems.

Charlotte Jenkins highlighted departmental efforts in getting greater community involvement in such activities through programs such as the Fishers for Fish Habitat. She noted that Rodney Tonkin was featured in the recent DPI publication “Recreational fishers make fish happen” for his involvement in improving the foreshores of Lake Canoblas and its surrounds.

Charlotte Jenkins also alerted the Council delegates to the upcoming Fishers for Fish Habitat forum on 18 19 June at the Ballina Beach Resort in Ballina and encouraged delegates to attend.

The Council thanked Charlotte for an excellent presentation and her efforts in improving fish habitats. The Council also looked forward to being involved in ongoing and future initiatives to improve fish habitats.

8. CLOSE

S Samuels closed the meeting at 3.45 pm and thanked Allan Wilcox of Bass Kempsey for organising the venue.

NEXT MEETING:

Gaden Hatchery, Jindabyne, Saturday 16 May 2009.

Attachment 1

NSWCFA Financial Statements

Revised Period from 1 July to 31 October 2008

	\$	\$	
Bank Balance 1 July 2008			5460.41
Income:			
Affiliation fees	2353.5		
Foundation fees	100		
Bank interest	1058.57		
Raffle	71.8		
Total Income			3583.87
Expenditure:			
Affiliation fee	200		
Allowances	300		
Awards	112.2		
Bank charges	83		
Conference attendance	200		
Dept Fair Trading	45		
Meeting expenses	201		
Postage	257.17		
Total Expenditure			-1398.37
Bank Balance as at 31 October 2008			7645.91

For the Period 1 November to 31 January 2009

Income:			
Affiliation fees	114		
Foundation fees	75		
Bank interest	0.17		
Total Income			189.17
Expenditure:			
Allowances		300	
Bank Charges		40	
Insurance		168	
Meeting expenses	200		
less refund	100	100	
Newsletter		1342.47	
Total Expenses			-1950.47
Bank Balance 31 January 2009			5884.61

Rodney Tonkin, NSWCFA Treasurer
9/02/2009

**NSWCFA 21 Feb 2009 Meeting
Background Papers**

Agenda Item 3.1 Gaden Hatchery

Regarding the Gaden Trout Hatchery Proposed Management Plan:

1. What representation will formulate the proposed management plan and who will have a say as to who will be involved?
2. What will be the scope of the proposed management plan and will it involve a budgetary involvement?
3. What will be the role of the Hatchery Manager in this process?
4. Will there now be security for the ongoing existence of this Hatchery and staffing of the same?
5. Who or what organisations will have access to the proposed management plan?
6. When will the proposed management plan be completed and is there a deadline for its completion?

Regarding the Gaden Trout Hatchery's property title:

According to Cameron Westaway, Senior Fisheries Manager Inland, NSW DPI, the legal title of the Garden Trout Hatchery property is registered in the name of the Crown to be administered to by the relevant NSW Minister at the time.

According to "The Flowing Stream" edited by Peter Gibson the Gaden Hatchery was officially opened and commenced operations at its present site in October 1953. In 1957 discussions took place between the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (and others) and the NSW Government. By January 1959 on the recommendations of then Trout Advisory Council the operation of the three main NSW hatcheries, Gaden, Dutton, and one other, were consolidated under the management of the NSW Government, and controlled by the Fisheries Branch of the then Chief Secretary's Department.

The anniversary of the first 50 years was held at the Hatchery in 2003.
Rodney Tonkin

Agenda Item 3.1 Gaden Hatchery

Great excitement surrounds the "saving" of Gaden, with comments such as a "good result for anglers".

Should this not read a good result for the NSW Government who have pulled off the best con-job in the recent history of con jobs.

As one who sat through the implementation process of setting up the licence under Bob Martin and Bob Carr, I am amazed at how much the focus has changed, and how this particular financially incompetent Government has continued to devise ways of getting their grubby little hands on the anglers money.

The local member is now a hero for his efforts in saving Gaden and will remind all of that when the next election rolls around. I don't suppose that he was well briefed on the matter by the Minister prior to the announcement and then sent out to side with the peasants. Nah they wouldn't do that.

The trust money was never meant to be used to fund core projects but this is increasingly becoming the focus of this Government

The 470k is a huge part of the freshwater budget and it is hard to see it coming from savings within the trout portion of the bank account. Other programs will suffer cutbacks and then the call will increase for a significant increase in the licence fee. While those in the Gaden region may see this as acceptable it may not go down all that well with warm water anglers on the Victorian border that are already obliged to buy 2 licences to fish in their local region.

Now that this precedent has been set, what next, Ebor, Narrandera or the Harbour Bridge.

Terry Maloney

Agenda Item 3.4 Kunanadgee,

The illegal works carried out at the proposed eco-tourism resort, "Kunanadgee: near Corowa on the Murray river is proving to be one of the most serious acts of environmental vandalism ever witnessed in this region and is now becoming one of the most mis-managed actions by DPI Fisheries.

The promises over the past year of impending prosecution have not materialised and the constant pleading by DPI to not "rock the boat" and allow them to carry out investigation is becoming a broken record that we are very tired of hearing. We have been very patient and co-operative and have waited for the notification and updates that we have been promised, however the only contact has been by us and we still do not get any real answers.

The initial reports to DPI by concerned anglers took over a week to be investigated despite them being given accurate location and also photos to stress the severity of the actions. For most of that week works continued unabated at the site and resulted in far more damage than was evident at the time of the first report.

The restoration works that were carried out in August last have resulted in works that have been far from satisfactory in the minds of many of our members. While we appreciate the legal constraints placed on Adam Vey and the resnagging team, the river in no way resembles the river that we knew prior to the desnagging.

The 411 snags that have been replaced are in numbers satisfactory, however the fact that they have been placed 1 to 1.5 m below normal summer level has resulted in a clear surface to the entire 4 km of river. If that was the initial aim of the developer he has therefore achieved his aim for a paltry \$70k. Had he applied to remove this timber by legal means the 70 grand would not have covered the first round of paperwork.

The riparian zone is still in a very degraded state and banks are still broken and in danger of erosion. DPI have refused any responsibility for this area of damage as they are only responsible for in stream habitat. Representatives of MDBC watched the resnagging, said good job, and then promptly walked away. No agency appears to want any responsibility for the bank damage and no efforts have been made to limit further damage. The mind set seems to be that mother nature will take care of it all in good time. We have been fortunate in one respect that the drought conditions have resulted in low river levels as a flood event would have disastrous results.

We have been constantly assured that this case would serve as a benchmark for further developers. In our opinion the message is just put a few more dollars on your original estimates to cover a few paltry penalties and go for it.

We hope that the prosecution of this offender is soon and severe, however our members are concerned that the further this case is delayed the less heat it will generate and less severe the penalty will be.

This was one of the premier Murray Cod breeding areas in our river and now it resembles a water ski park.

Justice in these cases does not just need to be done, but needs to be seen to be done. This is not happening in this case.

Terry Maloney

Item 3.10 & 3.12 Redfin on the NSWCFR Feb Meeting Agenda

Recommendation:

Given the fact that total elimination of redfin (English Perch) is not a possibility, what strategy has NSWCFR in place, and what action is being undertaken to restrict the spread and control an explosion of redfin numbers in Oberon Dam, which to date has been widely regarded as an important Central West recreational fishery?

Rodney Tonkin

Agenda Item 4.7 of NSWCFCA February 2009 General Meeting
(for circulation)

Moved by the NSWCFCA Treasurer Rodney Tonkin, seconded by Secretary Radge Diakiw

1. That the amended NSWCFCA July-October financial statement be adopted, and
2. That the NSWCFCA November-January financial statement be adopted.
3. That consideration be given to shifting the working account bank balance to a Credit Union where no bank charges are involved. Credit Union membership costs a one-off \$20. Currently bank charges are costing \$10 to \$12 a month and any request for statements \$7.50 to \$40 each. There would be a saving of about \$150 annually. It is not proposed to shift the Term deposit accounts from St George.

Moved by Rodney Tonkin, seconded by ?

4. That consideration be given to directing all NSWCFCA mail direct to the Secretary's home address. Post Office Box rental has significantly increased to \$113.5 for a three month term and, in addition, currently poses a difficulty in accessing same due the Sydney central location. This move would save the Council approximately \$450 annually.

Agenda Item 6.1 Issues of Concern

The following is a list of a freshwater recreational angler's concerns relating to the past actions resulting from the NSW Minister's Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries Division) that require being brought to the NSW State Government's attention:

1. The disembowelment of the former NSW Department of Fisheries and the fractionalisation into sections under three Deputy Directors, namely General Agriculture Fisheries and Regional Relations, Science and Research, and Biosecurity Compliance and Mine Safety. This action resulted in Fisheries becoming a somewhat insignificant part to a large conglomerate of a Department, and resulting in little resource funding attention being given to it with an ever diminishing budget.
2. A steadily declining Fisheries Divisional funding by the NSW State Government, which apparently (according to John Humphries) was reduced to \$3.5 million last year. Presumably with the Trust now funding the balance of the Gaden Trout Hatchery's annual running costs of \$541,000 per annum, in the form of the latest annual \$417,000 grant from

the Trust plus the \$124,000 already allocated from the Trust, the State's meagre commitment to fisheries will be only approximately \$3 million. This is a far cry from what was committed some 5 years ago.

3. Eroding the fabric of the understanding upon which NSW recreational anglers supported the adoption of the recreational fishing licence. Many anglers, and in particular those associated with NSWCFRA, supported the concept in essence on the basis that the revenue generated would be used to benefit the fishery in terms of additional research, compliance, education, and promotion. The call by the Department in recent years has been for the Trust to fund an ever increasing amount of that which hitherto was a Government responsibility. Examples of this are to be found in the funding of a Gaden hatchery building and the Dutton hatchery equipment, shortfalls in funding adequate fisheries staffing, and funding Departmental overheads to mention but a few. The Trust fund in recent years is recognised by some senior staff within the Department as Departmental monies to do with as they wish: in other words more accurately stated as a State tax levied on recreational fishers.
4. Backtracking from commitments made in public, thereby undermining angler confidence and destroying the very essence for which the Trust was originally set up for. The main example here was the Minister's statement made at the time of the Gaden Trout Hatchery's 50th anniversary celebration. The Minister is on record as having stated that NSWDPFI would fund \$100,000 and that the Trust would fund \$100,000 towards the construction of the new Gaden hatchery building. When the time came to fund the actual cost of \$235,000 the Minister reneged on the commitment, RFFTEC were confronted with footing the bill and as a result the entire cost was dumped onto the Trust to fund.
5. Inducing the reduction of fisheries staff through the offering of voluntary redundancies causing key senior staff (including Doug Hocking, one time Executive Director, and John Diplock, Manager Recreational Fisheries), together with others, to quit the Department. Of more recent concern, which would indicate this trend is ongoing within the Department, the news that three positions from conservation, a high priority area of the Fisheries Division, have been scrapped. This effectively will adversely impact by reducing our State's aquatic environmental recovery and virtually eliminate all habitat surveillance work. One would expect that the Nature Conservation Council of NSW would be up in arms over this as the impact will undoubtedly have an adverse effect upon re recovery of our native fish stocks.
6. In keeping with past inability to gain an undertaking from the Minister, there has not been a statement from his Office to guaranteeing future security for the Gaden Trout Hatchery, but merely an undertaking that

future consultation on such matters will be undertaken with the Minister's appointed ACoRF. The question remains, what else will the Minister see as easily gained fit pickings from the Trust?

7. The question of any financial profit from the Gaden Trout Hatchery being returned to the Trust is acknowledged as stated in the Minister's media release. The Hatchery to date has as its primary objective operating as a non-profit making entity. Even so, the question should be put as to why should the Tasmanian Government on behalf of their State fish farms not pay for the Hatchery maintaining for security purposes the Nation's breeding stock of Salmon?
8. Finally, in defence of the rescue proposal put to the Minister, the following statement has been made: "all that is going to happen. Is that money from the licence currently going to prop up DPI (mostly inspectors who do not exist, fancy calendars, giving money to schools for projects of little worth etc) will be diverted to the hatchery." While not fully appreciative of where this opinion may have originated from it is in fact far from the truth. In reality the statement reflects a scurrilous view of the true worth and allocation of the Trust monies.

Item 6.3 Tillegra Dam

The NSW CFA understands that the construction of Tillegra Dam is probably inevitable due to increasing water demands in the Hunter and on the Central Coast. Accordingly we have not opposed its construction, despite the fact that it will harm the Williams River and fish passage in that river.

In order to salvage something from the situation, the NSW CFA's Bill Spiers sought and was granted meetings with Hunter Water Corporation on future management issues. NSW CFA member organisation Hunter Native Fish attended the meetings (delegate Peter Hughes).

From those meetings we learned that the construction of a fishway or fish lock on the dam wall was impractical due to the height of the wall, the enormous expense and the possibility of failure of such a system. Therefore the NSW CFA supported the view that the best option would be to artificially stock the dam for recreational fishing. Hunter Water Corporation has previously indicated that it will allow angling access on the dam, will pay for stocking of the dam (commencing once the dam reaches 10% capacity) and also agreed to assist with other fish passage issues on the Williams and other rivers in the area. Those discussions have not been confirmed in writing but we will be pursuing Hunter Water Corporation in 2009 to follow up and cement those agreements.

Despite the success in achieving these trade-offs, the NSW CFA would rather NOT see the dam built as it will damage the Williams River. We understand that

there is a coalition of organisations fighting its construction, but we believe they have a very low chance of success. Nonetheless we would be pleased if they do succeed and we do not oppose their campaign in any way.

Item 6.6 Biosecurity Review for Feb NSWCFCA Meeting

The following is a brief summary from “One Security – A Working Partnership” the independent review of Australia’s quarantine and biosecurity arrangements report to the Australian Government, September 2008.

The Roger Beale’s (et.al.) report on the review of Australian’s biosecurity protection and quarantine inspection service is critical of the current State system due to the lack of communication and information sharing, inconsistencies in procedures and response times. As a consequence, to meet the challenges that confront our border protection where the volume of transportation is ever increasing and the time to get to Australia from anywhere in the world is ever decreasing, his report recommends

- A biosecurity system that fully involves business, other nations, the states and territories and the Australian community
- Involving pre-border, border, and post-border risk management measures
- Administrated by an integrated Commonwealth dedicated statutory agency called the National Biosecurity Authority to provide co-ordination and focus on managing biosecurity risks. In addition a National Biosecurity Commission is recommended to make science based import policy determinations independent of political (State or Federal) intervention.
- There is a need to increase national resources for pre-border risk management and post-border monitoring, surveillance and management of national priority exotic pests and diseases.
- Currently our biosecurity agencies are significantly under resourced. The report recommends a funding increase of \$260 million plus \$225 million to upgrade the related information technology and business systems.

Recommendations total 84 in all, and under the heading Risks to the environment (7.2.3) on page 139 in Box 21 it is pleasing to note “Didymo: a potential environmental threat” is features as an aquatic pest that has the potential to cause considerable harm to Australian waterways. NSWCFCA is included in the list of submissions received, and NSW DPI is listed in the stakeholder consultations.

Question:

Does NSW DPI have a response strategy should Didymo find its way into NSW waterways?

There needs to be

- an isolation and containment strategy in place,

- an update on research into protection techniques, plus
- advancement in establishing eradication procedures.

Abbreviations

ACoRF	Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing
BMNDAA	Blue Mountains and Nepean District Angling Association
BS	Bass Sydney
BRFC	Barooga Recreational Fishing Club
CAA	Canberra Anglers Association
CAS	Central Acclimatisation Society
CSDAC	Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs
CTAA	Cooma Trout Acclimatisation Association
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (Commonwealth)
DPI	New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
DWLC	Department of Land & Water Conservation
FFB	Fly Fish Bathurst
FWA	Far West Anglers
GFFC	Greenwells Fly Fishing Club
HNF	Hunter Native Fish
IFF	Illawarra Fly Fishers
LS	Lakeside Fly Fishing Club
LHA	Leeton Hotel Anglers
MAS	Monaro Acclimatisation Society
MDBMC	Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council
MNCFR	Mid North Coast Fly Rodders
NCC	Nature Conservation Council
NETAS	New England Trout Acclimatisation Society
N&NWRA	North and North West Recreational Anglers
NSWCFA	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers
NSWRFS	NSW Rod Fishers' Society
OTAS	Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society
PFIGA	Professional Fishing Instructors and Guides Association
RFA-NSW	Recreational Fishing Alliance
RFFTEC	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee
SB	Southern Bass Fishing Club
SCAC	Sydney Coarse Angling Club
SFR	Sydney Fly Rodders' Club
SFFC	Singleton Fly Fishing Club
SH	Snowy Hydro
SWAA	South West Anglers Association
WA	Wingham Anglers