

**NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INC.  
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2019  
The Freeway Hotel, 115 Reserve Rd, Artarmon NSW 2064**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. OPENING**

The President, Don Barton, welcomed delegates and opened the meeting at 9.30 am.

**Present**

Don Barton (President), Charles Atkin (BC), Bill Blair (MAS), Radge Diakiw (SFRC), David Graham (OTAS), Peter Gibson (NSW RFS, RFA NSW), Kevin Kai (SFRC), Laurie Muldoon (NETAS), John Robb (CCFRC), Mark Schmidt (SFRC) and Ray Tang (CAS).

At this meeting the following affiliates were represented: Barrington Club (1) Central Acclimatisation Society (2), Central Coast Fly Rodders (1), Monaro Acclimatisation Society (1), New England Trout Acclimatisation Society (1) NSW Rod Fishers' Society (1), Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society (1) and Sydney Fly Rodders' Club (3).

**Apologies**

Gary Bickford (SFRC), Stefan Fuchs (CAA), Milton Lazarus (BS), Neil Nelson (IFF), Greg Prowse (NSW RFS), Don Salter (LS), Steve Samuels (MAS), Les Simshauser (HNF) and Mike Timbrell (NSW RFS).  
(Diakiw/Atkin)

**2. MINUTES**

**2.1 17 November 2018 Annual General Meeting for review.**

Subject to amending minor typographical errors the Meeting agreed that the draft minutes be submitted for endorsement at the 2019 AGM.

**2.2 17 November 2018 Ordinary General Meeting minutes for endorsement**

The Meeting agreed that the draft minutes be endorsed subject to amending minor typographical errors and deleting "of the rock fishing" at the 2<sup>nd</sup> dot point of Agenda Item 4.2.

(Atkin/Robb)

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**3.1 Future conduct of NSWCFCA and Preliminary Report on NSWCFCA Future Directions Survey** (See Agenda Items 6.1 Nov 2018 AGM and 5.1 Nov 2018 OGM)

Peter Gibson tabled a preliminary summary of responses to the title survey. The Meeting agreed that Peter Gibson will refine the summary for inclusion as an attachment to these minutes. Peter Gibson will then formulate recommendations to respond to the survey outcomes so they can be considered at the May NSWCFCA meeting. Peter Gibson also advised that he planned to distribute the summary to all responders. The Report is at Attachment 1.

**3.2 NSWCFCA affiliation fees for 2019-2020** (See Agenda Item 6.2 Nov 2018 AGM)

Radge Diakiw advised the Executive on 14 February of Don Salters calculation that applying CPI changes, the current affiliation fee of \$1.75 would be increased to \$1.90. The Meeting noted that an increase to \$1.90 would not arrest the decline in NSWCFCA financial status. The Meeting agreed that a Notice of Motion for a fee increase, supported by a business case, taking into account the current financial

position of the NSWCFCA, CPI changes and the level of support for a fee increase, be prepared for the August 2019 AGM rather than increase the affiliation fee in line with the CPI now. The Meeting noted that depending on the proposal, changes to the cap paid by affiliates and the Constitution may be necessary. Should this be the case, affiliates should have time to fully consider the implications of any proposals. (Gibson/Diakiw)

### **3.3 4x4 Damage to Waterways** (See Agenda Item 3.1 Nov 2018 OGM).

Don Barton advised the Meeting that he had been awaiting, for some time, advice from Peter Turnell on whether DPI could/would take action to prevent vehicular damage to trout spawning sites. The Meeting agreed that, Don Barton, before the February 2019 Executive Meeting, write to the minister responsible, seeking legislative amendments to the Fisheries Management Act that will deter vehicle drivers from causing damage to fish habitats including trout spawning habitats. In the interim, Ray Tang in consulting with DPI, the National 4WD Association, Energy Australia, NPWS and Local Councils intend to put up signs in an attempt to prevent damage to the waterways arising from unnecessary waterway crossings.

## **4. REPORTS**

### **4.1 Presidents Report**

See Attachment 2.

### **4.2 NSWCFCA Executive.**

Outcomes of the 3 Executive Meetings since the last NSWCFCA OGM have been circulated to delegates.

### **4.3 Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee**

Peter Gibson advised that RFFTEC met on 31 January 2019. Outcomes of the meeting include:

- The Narrandera native fish hatchery expansion has been funded and work will proceed.
- Fisheries had not yet reported to the Minister on angler access to Sydney region water impoundments although the report was due by early December.
- The \$500,000 "Fish for Life" program has not yet been approved by the Minister although it was endorsed by the Trust Funds in late-2018.
- A number of minor projects such as children's fishing day clinics and other small community events were redirected to the Go Fish Day program which grants \$2000 or the equivalent in fishing gear to any applicant.
- An Opera House yabby trap buy back scheme has been supported.
- Fisheries advised that the Angler Access website would be operational by mid-February 2019.

### **4.4 RFA**

Peter Gibson advised that RFA NSW has met with 3 NSW political parties: the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers; One Nation and the Liberal Democrats. A meeting with the Greens has been arranged and meetings with Labor and the Coalition are being sought. The aim of these meetings is to determine what policies these parties have on angling related issues. Anglers may wish to use this information when deciding how to vote, but the RFA will not be recommending a vote for any particular party.

### **4.5 Treasurers Report**

The Meeting endorsed the Treasurers Report (Attachment 3) which was prepared by Don Salter.  
Diakiw/Muldoon)

#### **4.6 Regional Reports**

##### **NETAS**

Laurie Muldoon advised that NETAS was starting to plan for a 2019 fly-fishing day at Dutton Trout Hatchery in Ebor, for women who had experienced breast cancer.

The Dutton Hatchery is working well, although suffered some fish losses in the hot weather they were not of major significance.

The western parts of NETAS are suffering greatly and many of the streams are in poor condition. However, in the eastern parts, around Dorrigo, the streams are not as badly affected.

A petition seeking a ban on extracting water from Keepit Dam when the water level gets below 20% capacity is being circulated in the NETAS area. Currently the dam is at about 0.4% capacity.

##### **Monaro**

There has been a fish kill at the Gaden Hatchery. Overall about 30,000 fish have died. Essentially no brook trout have survived, as well, many brown and rainbow trout have died. Of particular note, a significant number of brood stock rainbow trout have also died and this may lead to a shortage of rainbow trout available for stocking in future years should not enough rainbow trout be trapped for stripping later this year.

As a result of the fish kill, the stocking of many of the rivers with fingerlings may not proceed using the current allocation.

The original plan to stock micro-tagged fingerlings into the lakes was stopped for this season because the micro-tagged fish were not recovering from the anaesthesia - presumably because of poor condition and water temperature. The remainder of the fingerlings were released untagged.

##### **Central West**

The Lithgow branch CAS is investigating the stocking of fingerlings in the Fish River.

Although there was a small fish kill in the Turon River when pools in the river dried up, many of the streams are in relatively good condition.

##### **OTAS**

David Graham advised that 2 impoundments and only 1 stream, which was spring fed, was stocked. Because of the poor conditions OTAS did not stock all the fish it was originally offered.

#### **4.7 Interclub Fly Fishing Meet Report**

John Robb advised that the 2019 Interclub Fly Fishing Meet is planned for 3, 4, 5 May following a similar format to the 2018 event. Details will be circulated shortly.

### **5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Electronic (ZOOM) / Face to Face Meeting Trial**

Mark Schmidt and Peter Gibson were able to demonstrate that a Zoom/face to face connection could be established at the Freeway Hotel. The Meeting noted that it may be necessary to obtain among other things, WiFi extenders and agreed to continue with the trial.

### **5.2 Murray Darling Basin Fish Kills**

The Meeting agreed that the NSWCFA write an open letter to Federal and State Ministers expressing our dismay at the State Government's role in contributing to the current dire condition of the Darling River. The NSWCFA has lost confidence in the State Government's commitment to care for the waters of the Murray Darling Basin particularly as:

- the government appears to believe that productive and environmental use of water are diametrically opposed rather than being complimentary
- The Premier has been reported as saying that people are more important than fish rather than putting any effort into helping both people and fish.

### **5.3 Lake Wallace (Nimmitabel) update**

Action to obtain a reversal of the local council decision continues.

### **5.4 Updating Contact Details of NSWCFA Affiliates**

Peter Gibson advised that he had major difficulties in contacting NSWCFA affiliates and identifying their office bearers when sending out the NSWCFA Future Directions Survey (See Agenda Item 3.1). The Meeting agreed that the current information exchange arrangements between the NSWCFA and its affiliates were inadequate. Ways of ensuring contact details remain current will be investigated.

### **5.3 Status of the National Carp Control Plan**

Noting that very little information about the progress of the National Carp Control Plan has been disseminated recently, the Meeting agreed that Don Barton write to the FRDC seeking an update on how the plan is progressing, particularly: on:

- What changes, if any, have been made to the plan.
- Whether the target date for release of the virus is achievable
- What auxiliary measures will be undertaken in parallel with the release of the virus to increase the effectiveness of the release
- What is the current status of genetic research on the daughterless carp project.

## **5 Next Meeting –16 May 2019**

The Meeting noted that the May 2019 Ordinary General Meeting will be held at the Freeway Hotel, 115 Reserve Rd, Artarmon NSW 2064.

## **6 Close**

Don Barton thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 2.10 pm.



Report to member organisations

## **NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers**

### **Member survey 2019**

*By Peter Gibson*

## Introduction

A survey of members of the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers (i.e. member organisations) was undertaken in January 2019, using SurveyMonkey.

The survey was distributed on 10 January 2019 with a 28 January deadline, and a reminder (with an extended deadline of 8 February) was sent on 1 February.

## Who was surveyed?

The survey was sent to all member clubs, as well as some clubs that were not currently financial but had been members in recent years. The survey was sent to 27 clubs via 45 email addresses—in some cases more than one address of each club. Clubs are not always diligent in updating contact details for their secretaries and delegates. In some cases, it is not clear that the club still exists.

The survey was sent to 27 clubs, via 45 email addresses.

ACT Fly Fishers  
Bass Kempsey  
Canberra Fishermans Club  
Canberra Anglers Association  
Central Acclimatisation Society  
Central Coast Flyrodders  
Clarence Fly Anglers  
Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs  
Hastings Fly fishers  
Illawarra Fly Fishers  
Lakeside  
Monaro Acclimatisation Society  
New England Trout Acclimatisation Society  
NSW Rod Fishers Society  
Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society  
Southern Bass  
Sydney Fly Rodders Club  
Sydney Coarse Angling Club  
The Barrington Club  
Bass Sydney  
Hawkesbury Nepean Bass Anglers' Association  
Springwood Fishing Club  
Hunter Native Fish  
Inland Waters Rejuvenation Association  
Singleton Fly Fishing Club  
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club  
The Lakes

## 12 responses were received:

Central Acclimatisation Society  
Central Coast Flyrodders  
Clarence Fly Anglers  
Illawarra Fly Fishers  
Monaro Acclimatisation Society  
NSW Rod Fishers Society  
Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society  
Sydney Fly Rodders Club  
The Barrington Club  
Bass Sydney  
Springwood Fishing Club  
Hunter Native Fish

The survey was a mix of open-ended and multiple-choice questions. The following report summarises the responses received to the 25 questions in the survey.

# Responses

**Q1. What are the issues we should focus on? Keeping in mind the many various bodies which now deal with special aspects of the freshwater fishery, what are the issues that the NSWCFCA should spend MORE time on?**

- The CFA should focus on the bigger issues that affect the entire state or at least a number of CFA regions across the State
- Habitat restoration and access
- Inappropriate farming practices affecting water quality
- Enforcement of fishing regulations
- Reducing stream water temperatures, re-vegetation
- Effects of climate change, particularly the reduction in freshwater flows in NSW waterways
- Bio-security threats
- Decline in Eucumbene
- Too many government agencies involved
- Cattle in the rivers
- Water policy
- Pollution
- Pest fish
- Conservation vs trout, anti-blood sports agendas
- Water management from government bodies.

**Q2. Are there issues we should spend LESS time on?**

- Less time on local issues that should be handled locally. The CFA can assist if the locals cannot gain headway
- Dealing with issues about which the government is reluctant to act.

**Q3. Are there NEW issues we are not paying enough attention to?**

- Riparian re-vegetation, climate change, the current problem with \$4\$ stocking program, access, research and funding of same, river flows and the Murray Darling Basin
- Water temperatures.

**Q4. Should the NSWCFCA still conduct quarterly face-to-face meetings?**

Yes—9

No—1

Less frequently—3

**Q5. How many delegates is your organisation entitled to send to NSWCFCA meetings?**

2 delegates—7 clubs

4 delegates—1 club

5 delegates—1 club

Not sure—5 clubs

**Q6. Does your club usually send a delegate to NSWCFCA meetings?**

No—3

Yes—9

Not sure—1

**Q 7. If not, what are the reasons?**

Delegates not interested—1

Delegates don't have time—1

Boring overworked topics with no forward movement—1

**Q8. Does your club reimburse delegates' costs for attending NSWCFAs meetings?**

Yes—3

No—6

Partly—4

**Q9. Where should we meet?**

Sydney—8

Other suggestions: Sydney mixed with regional; various regions were suggested, cycled throughout the state.

**Q10. Would your club be willing to host a meeting?**

No—8

Yes—5 (some suggested various local locations)

**Q11. Does your club conduct its own meetings via phone hook-up, Skype or online meeting apps?**

No—12

Sometimes—1

**Q12. Would you be able to join in to meetings conducted through a free online meeting app such as Skype or Zoom?**

Yes—6

No—4

Not sure—3

**Q13. If we held online meetings or phone hook-ups, what would be your preferred time?**

Weekday evenings—5

Weekend mornings—2

Weekend evenings—2

Would not want to participate—4

**Q14. Our constitution does not currently allow for proxy voting. Should we change that, to allow proxy voting?**

Yes—8

No—4

**Q15. Several meetings had to be postponed in recent years because we could not get a quorum. The constitution requires the following quorum for a meeting: "Three Office Bearers plus five Members present (being Members entitled under this constitution to vote at a General Meeting)". Should the quorum rule be relaxed to require fewer people present?**

Yes—7

No—5



**Q16. Would you be happy with a rule that changed the quorum to “any five members present”?**

Yes—8

No—4

**Q17. Should we change the membership model? The NSWCFCA is currently an association of member organisations with voting rights that are tied to those organisations—the voting rights vary according to their number of members. The NSWCFCA is not currently an organisation of voting individuals. Should we change that, to allow individuals to become members with voting rights?**

No—7

Change to an organisation with individual members with voting rights—1

Change to an organisation that allows organisations and individuals to have equal voting rights—4

**Q18. How much are you prepared to pay for membership? The current membership levy is \$1.75 per person. The NSWCFCA is currently running at a loss and reserves of funds are dwindling. It might be necessary to increase the levy to a level that supports the NSWCFCA's basic activities. The total membership cost for a club is capped at \$300, regardless of the number of members. Would you be willing to consider an increase of the membership levy in future years?**

Yes—6

No—1

Yes (with cap increased)—1

Yes (with no cap increase)—3

“We need to better understand the benefits we get from our membership and would be happy to pay more if we were getting value for our contribution.”—1

**Q19. Approximately how many members are there in your organisation?**

Fewer than 50—3

50 to 100—36

Over 100—3

**Q20. Do you currently send notices about NSWCFCA meetings and activities to your members?**

No—4

Yes—8

**Q21. If not, why not?**

Don't think they would be interested—1

Other responses:

- In past members have been encouraged to sign up for the e-newsletter
- The minutes are very long and detailed and by their very nature much of the information may not be relevant and therefore interesting to our members.
- Only appropriate to send to delegates. Reports are otherwise.

**Q22. Do you forward the NSWCFCA “Freshwater Fisher” newsletter to your members?**

No—4

Yes—8

**Q23. If not why not?**

Don't know how to forward—1

Don't think they would be interested—2

Not aware that newsletter is available—1

**Q24. Should the NSWCFCA continue to exist? The NSWCFCA was formed in 1958 to engage with the government on freshwater issues. Since then, as mentioned in the introduction, other bodies have been formed to address a lot of those issues. So, should we keep going?**

No, no longer have a role—1

Yes, role hasn't changed—5

We should continue but our role has changed and we need to change our focus—6

**Q25. How are things going in your own club? We'd be interested to know how things are going amongst our member clubs and associations.**

Membership is growing—4

Membership is steady—8

Attendance at club meetings and events is OK—8

Attendance at club meetings and events is falling—3

The club has a mix of age groups—6

The club has mostly older members—5

Family involvement is not strong in the club—7

## Next actions

This report will be distributed to all member organisations, regardless of whether or not they responded to the survey.

It will also be attached to the minutes of the February quarterly meeting of the NSWCFCA (at which the survey and report were discussed).

That meeting resolved that we should formulate recommendations in response to the survey outcomes, for consideration at the May NSWCFCA meeting.

*Peter Gibson*

*4 March 2019*

**Murray-Darling Basin**

The recent massive fish kill in the Menindee Weir Pool can't escape comment.

It is clear that there is a real problem with the management of the northern end of the Basin, basically going to unsustainable amounts of water extraction and unacceptable nutrient burdens in the water.

We have been told that the fish kill was due to an algal bloom during warm weather, and that a cold snap followed by mixing of different layers of water caused the death of the algae, which promptly decomposed, with the associated bacterial activity de-oxygenating the water. What was not particularly pointed out is the cause of the algal bloom, which must reflect high nutrient levels in the water.

Water quality has been a concern to graziers and residents in the MDB for a long time and has been of particular concern to indigenous people living in their ancestral lands in the basin.

Apart from water quality, there is the question of adequate flows. Stagnation obviously makes an algal bloom more likely, and the absence of any flow makes temperature stratification more likely, a precondition to the turnover of temperature gradients that killed the algae and thereby caused the hypoxic conditions that killed the fish.

We know that there is over extraction in the Northern Basin, not simply resulting from water theft but mainly from pumping rules that allow too much water to be extracted.

On 24 July 2017 *The Land* reported:

*NSW's water policy is under fire, following reports that regulations to allow irrigators to harvest environmental flows from the Barwon-Darling river system are undermining the \$13 billion Murray Darling Basin Plan.*

*ABC Four Corners reported water bought back from private water holders by the Commonwealth can be legally harvested by irrigators. More than \$3b has been spent to date on entitlements to return water to the system for environmental health.*

*The report said that together Webster Limited and cotton farmer Peter Harris own about 70 per cent of all licenced water in Barwon-Darling.*

*The concerns boil down to changes in NSW's Water Sharing Plan, that allowed irrigators to convert B and C class licences to A class – permitting them to extract river water with large, 24 inch pumps during low flows.*

*Low flow pumping had previously restricted to 6-inch pumps.*

*Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) chief executive Phillip Glyde said despite concerns over harvesting of environmental water, irrigators still had to comply with an overall cap on extraction.*

*"There is some concern as a result of rule changes more of the low flows have been harvested legally by irrigators so there is a concern that in low flow periods the irrigators are getting the benefit of that — over the long run, over the long run average that shouldn't matter," he said.*

*Four Corners cited internal documents where the MDBA board questioned the accuracy of the its own monitoring extraction in the Barwon Darling. The documents said the region was not thought to have exceeded its cap but raised "reasonable doubts over the veracity of the model".*

*NSW's 2012 Water Sharing Plans surprised many people. The new regulations varied from draft regulations which had been the subject of consultation.*

*Former NSW Farmers president and columnist for The Land Mal Peters, said heavy low-flow pumping by upstream irrigators in the Barwon Darling risked drying the river before it reached downstream communities and the environment. Heavy pumping should be limited to higher flows.*

We have suffered a protracted dry period, leading Water New South Wales to express concern, reported by ABC Rural on 15 January 2019:

*"... in previous years it (Water NSW) had relied on modelling from past droughts to guide its response to future dry spells.*

*However, it has never experienced the type of conditions currently affecting the state.*

*Adrian Langdon from Water NSW said they had taken "exceptional measures" to try to preserve water storages because of record low rainfall and inflows.*

***"What we are seeing, especially in the last 18 months is some of the lowest inflows on record," Mr Langdon said.***

***"We haven't seen this type of situation before."** (emphasis added)*

However, for more than 18 months we have been aware that there is reason to believe that over-extraction has been permitted in the northern basin.

Of course, climate change has not helped the situation. But according to the South Australian Royal Commission the MDB Authority had failed to act according to law, that obliged it to make use of the best available science in developing policy, and this appears to be nowhere more obvious than the fact the original plan ignored potentially "catastrophic" risks of climate change.

According to the Commissioner, the original architects of the multi-billion-dollar plan of were influenced by politics, with the report finding "politics rather than science" drove the setting of the "Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) and the recovery figure of 2,750 GL".

Of course, when flows cease and a river forms into a series of long waterholes or the like, it is not possible for fish to escape a stretch of water that is deoxygenating.

The decision to drain the Menindee Lakes because of water evaporation is also part of the problem.

The NSW Government decided to find \$500 million to build a pipeline from the Murray to Broken Hill. One may ask whether it may not have been better to spend the money fixing the man-made problems in the Northern Basin. Taking the analysis a little further, one may ask whether the \$500 million represents an indirect or disguised subsidy to irrigation. (Interestingly, no concern has been expressed at water losses to evaporation from the large, shallow water holdings maintained by some of the major irrigators-cum-water bankers in the Northern Basin. )

The response of the current State Government to the fish kills is disappointing.

We should particularly condemn the false dichotomy propounded by Niall Blair (whose Ministerial responsibilities include Fisheries) on Landline on 3 February 2019 when he contrasted “Productive use of water vs environmental use”.

Given that the economic value of the recreational fishery in the MDB has been estimated as a direct expenditure of \$1,352 million, direct value added expenditure of \$375 million, contribution to GDP of \$403 million, and contribution to employment of 10,950 jobs (Economic Contribution of Recreational Fishing in the Murray-Darling Basin, August 2011, Ernst & Young) it can be said that environmental water underpins the fishery , which allows that very significant economic return, on a fully sustainable basis.

The Premier attempted something similar with a comment that “people are more important than fish”. Perhaps someone should tell Ms Berejiklian that people need good quality water also, as do the livestock on which so many people depend, not to mention the very real but unquantifiable non-economic value of recreational fishing for people.

By contrast, the response by Joel Fitzgibbon, on Landline on 10 February 2019, responding to the question “What is the one thing that you (Labor) might do to the MDB imbroglio that would make it better?” said, “Go back to the science and make sure people stick to the science in their management of the laws made by the Parliament. Sadly that’s not been happening.”

That seems to be a sensible and encouraging take on the situation, expressed, as required by the question, in a nutshell.

On Tuesday, 12 February 2019, the Federal Opposition spokesman on Water said that the cap on buying back water allocations should be lifted. This is a step in the right direction. We hope the Opposition holds true on its promise, should it be successful at the next elections.

#### **Withdrawal from engagement with the Invasive Species Council.**

This organisation was initially established to promote a particular point of view on dealing with invasive species, and there was a strong ideological bias in its implied agendas, with a strong attack recreational hunting while asserting that only “scientifically” conducted control programmes can achieve desirable outcomes with respect to feral animal control.

Thus, the Invasive Species Council publishes strong critiques of recreational hunting, but consistent with its ideological stance, never has anything to say about the poor or non-existent management of invasive species in National Parks, unless it becomes an ideological issue, in which case it will go on the attack.

This is in sharp distinction from an organisation such as Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, which, amongst other things, publishes the e-newsletter Feral Flyer, which is always objective and informative.

The issue of destructive invasive species such as feral pigs or goats is a serious matter for freshwater anglers. Interestingly, in the riparian zone of one stream that is of interest as a potential Macquarie Perch refuge and which flows through a state forest where recreational hunting is permitted, wild pig damage is seldom in evidence and pigs are seldom, if ever sighted, while in the Abercrombie River National Park, through which flows the Retreat River, home to a recovering population of Macquarie Perch, feral pig damage is very commonly observed and at times one practically falls over wild pigs. The wild pig damage to the riparian zone inevitably adds to siltation, which is a significant threatening process for Macquarie Perch (and adversely affects other fish species of more immediate interest to the angler). Yet the Invasive Species Council attacks the former management regime, but remains silent on the latter, unless it becomes an ideologically political matter. For anglers who have followed the fortunes of fish such as the Macquarie Perch, the lack of interest in critiquing the chronically poor management of destructive exotic mammals in National Parks must reflect adversely on the Council's credibility.

Much freshwater angling relies on the availability of an exotic species (trout) which would be regarded by ideological purists as an invasive species. Further, to ideological purists, fishing is considered a form of hunting, and we should be mindful that recreational fishing is not immune to attacks from such quarter, as the criminalisation of catch and release fishing in certain European countries demonstrates.

Our engagement with the Invasive Species Council has made it difficult to maintain the nuanced response to the Brumby Bill that the value we place on introduce trout requires. It is also damaging to our credibility to be giving publicity to an organisation that is hostile to all exotic species, regardless of recreational value.

I am unaware of the CFA having gained anything from the engagement with the Invasive Species Council. There is no upside to balance the downside to our credibility and we demonstrate a lack of foresight in publicising a body that would be quite prepared to move against trout when it suits it, however overtly disarming they may be otherwise.

I recommend that the CFA considers withdrawal from any further engagement with the Invasive Species Council. If the CFA were to so move, that, of course, would in no way be binding on constituent bodies of the CFA, nor would it prevent objective reportage of any matter regarding the Invasive Species Council in *Freshwater Fisher*. One is merely pointing out why it would be judicious to maintain a little more distance

Don Barton  
President  
NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

<b>NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INC</b>			
<b>- GENERAL MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 2019 -</b>			
<b>FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 3 MONTHS ENDED 31 JANUARY 2019</b>			
	\$	\$	\$
<b>(a) STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>3 mths</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>	<b><u>Last Yr</u></b>
<b>Income:</b>		<b><u>7mths</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
<b>Affiliation fees</b>			
NSW Rod Fishers Society		350	320
Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs		300	300
ACT Fly Fishers		212	235
Sydney Fly Rodders Club		212	212
Illawarra Fly Fishers Club		140	135
The Barrington Club		102	98
Canberra Anglers Association		74	226
Central Coast Fly Rodders		70	82
Southern Bass		59	51
Lakeside Fly Fishing Club		56	61
Bass Kempsey	38	38	38
Clarence Fly Anglers		32	33
Monaro Acclimatisation Society		0	350
Central Acclimatisation Society		0	182
Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society		0	47
Sydney Coarse Angling Club		0	37
Hastings Fly Fishers		0	
NETAS		0	
Canberra Fishermens Club		0	
	38	1,645	2,407
<b>Foundation membership subscriptions &amp; donations</b>	25	50	300
<b>Investment &amp; Other income</b>			
Net surplus - Interclub meet Wallerwang	0	0	1,648
Term deposit interest (St George)		0	(79)
Current account interest (Orange, Wpac)	2	4	8
Raffles, donations		0	30
	65	1,699	4,314
<b>Expenditure:</b>			
"Freshwater Fisher" monthly newsletter	1,103	2,576	4,457
Bank fees	99	231	396
Insurance	218	218	300
Website expenses		0	218
Meeting expenses		0	200
Annual Return lodgement fee		0	45
Allowances		0	
RFA affiliation		0	
	1,420	3,025	5,616
<b>Net surplus (deficit) for period</b>	(1,355)	(1,326)	(1,302)



<b>(b) STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 JAN 2019</b>			
<b>Accumulated working funds</b>			
	Balance b'fwd 1 Jul 18	7,675	7,646
	Net surplus for period	(1,355)	(1,326)
	Balance c'fwd 31 Jan 2019	<u>6,320</u>	<u>7,646</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
	St George Bank - Grants account	1	1
	Westpac - current, cash reserve accounts	6,319	6,319
		<u>6,320</u>	<u>7,646</u>
	<b>Total assets</b>	<u>6,320</u>	<u>7,646</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<b>Net assets</b>	<u>6,320</u>	<u>7,646</u>
	DA Salter		