

Mr Sean Sloan
Deputy Director General,
Department of Primary Industries
Email: sean.sloan@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Sloan,

Carp Management - your ref: OUT23/2044

Thank you for your letter of 13 February 2023 regarding NSW DPI's initiatives on carp control. The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSWCFA) is pleased to note that NSW DPI is contributing to a final decision about the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP).

We note your comment that "the carp virus currently represents the only feasible large-scale control measure to achieve significant reductions in carp numbers".

However, this position does not appear to be shared by those managing the NCCP, as their focus appears to be directed toward determining whether the carp virus should be released, rather than preparing for its release.

We also note that there is consensus that the virus is not a "silver bullet" and it should only be released in conjunction with many other management interventions.

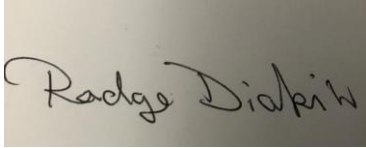
The NSWCFA believes that rather than await finalisation of the NCCP, there should not be any delay in NSW DPI undertaking carp control activities, regardless of whether or not the virus is released. Potential management interventions should be trialled now, to assess the viability of such interventions on carp populations.

Following your suggestion, I discussed carp management with Peter Turnell and in more detail with Cameron Lay. I advised them that Don Barton and Ray Tang of the Central Acclimatisation Society reported a recent infestation of carp in Lake Wallace at Wallerawang, and believe that there is a possibility that carp could be eradicated from Lake Wallace if urgent action is taken.

NSWCFA believes that efforts to remove carp from Lake Wallace would receive support from Central Acclimatisation Society, the wider angling public and the local community. Efforts to eliminate the carp population in Lake Wallace could then be used to assess interventions in other waterways, which would better prepare NSW DPI for future eradication activities.

We do not believe it is in the best interest of our fisheries that NSW DPI simply waits for the finalisation of the NCCP in the hope that the virus is released. We believe that NSW DPI needs to commence other management interventions to determine what measures can be carried out to reduce carp populations in NSW waterways in the future—Lake Wallace would provide an easy and immediate opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Radge Diakiw" in a cursive script.

Radge Diakiw
Secretary, New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers
16 March 2023