

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

"Promoting Sustainable Fishing"

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Vice President of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, Max Castle was recently elected to the Hawkesbury Nepean Catch Management Authority (HNCMA) for a 2 year term as a Theme Team Member. The purpose of the Theme Team is to look at the environmental aims that are in the regional plan for the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment and work out projects that can be done to achieve those aims. Some of the aims in the regional plan are to improve the health of rivers and riverbanks, improve habitat for native fish and improve native vegetation.

The RFA of NSW is interested in your project ideas – anything that makes the link between recreational fishing interests and the Catchment Management Authority's conservation aims. Or you can also list your project ideas using the form or email address on the HNCMA website at www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au Look in the 'What's new – let us know your ideas for action'.

Healthy rivers mean healthy fish so let's get our thinking caps on!

Rivers in the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment include the Wollondilly, Cox, Kowmung, Nepean, Grose, Colo, Macdonald, Mangrove, Mooney Mooney, Mullet, Berowra, Cowan and Pittwater and, of course, the mighty Hawkesbury its whole length.

Potential projects that the RFA of NSW has identified for the catchments include:

1. Establish current position with programs for removal of carp - build new programs
2. Identify location for willow tree removal from upper reaches of rivers and streams.
3. Education awareness program focusing on recreational fishers - "take your rubbish with you"
4. Develop new standards for fish cleaning tables to improve water savings, appearance and public health.
5. Sea grass - provide details of locations so care can be taken with access and anchoring. (Linked to 10)
6. Awareness program about marine pests such as the Green Shore Crab, NZ Screwshell, etc.
7. Education program on various types of sea grasses, including pests (caulerpa).
8. Destruction of habitat (through natural and new residential and commercial development) - identify areas in need
9. Commence a "Save the Hairtail" program – through better management of commercial and recreational fishing

The RFA of NSW is seeking input from the grass root level anglers on other projects that link the interests of recreational fishing and conservation of the environment

Contact Max Castle vice.president@rfansw.com.au