



\$664,468 for 18 NSW recreational fishing projects

The Australian Government has allocated up to \$664,468 for 18 projects in NSW under Round 1 of the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme.

Australian Fisheries and Conservation Minister Senator Ian Macdonald said the projects would make a day on the water even better.

"Fishing is a way of life in New South Wales, and it is important that we help foster a sport that is so important to the economy and lifestyle," Senator Macdonald said.

"Over 3.6 million people in Australia go fishing at least once a year, and 24 per cent of Australian households contain at least one recreational angler."

NSW's successful projects include:

- The University of New South Wales, which will receive up to \$79,000 to enhance the Recreational Mulloway Fishery in the Tweed, Richmond, Hastings and Georges rivers through responsible stocking.
- The National Marine Science Centre, which will receive up to \$72,000 to provide a Sustainable Recreational Fishing Excursion Experience for NSW school groups. The project will create displays on a recreational fishing theme to promote key attributes of the recreational fishing experience, including responsible handling and safe release of fish.
- The Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Port Stephens Flotilla, which will receive up to \$37,500 for an emergency response service project. The project will identify existing gaps in radio coverage in the areas of Port Stephens, Myall Lakes and 12nm seaward, and extend radio coverage to these areas to improve the safety of the boating and fishing public.

A list of the 18 successful projects in NSW is attached.

Senator Macdonald also announced applications for Round 2 had opened and would close on 17 March 2006.

He said the grants would benefit not only recreational anglers and their families, but also regional and local communities, tourism operators and the public.

Further information on Round 2 of the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme is available at www.daff.gov.au/recfishinggrants or by email fishinggrants@daff.gov.au

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NSW Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme Round 1 Grant Recipients

Greening Australia ACT & SE NSW Inc.

Greening Australia will receive up to \$97,500 to undertake habitat recovery and fish restocking in the Boorowa Catchment to reintroduce native species, remove existing barriers to fish passage, and establish groynes and woody debris to enhance fish habitat.

The Macdonald Valley Association

The Macdonald Valley Association will receive up to \$88,920 for the project Bring Back the Fish to St Albans – Macdonald River Recovery. The project will assist landholders to establish at least 10 key restoration sites along highly degraded recreational fishing sites, resulting in sustainable fish habitats.

The University of NSW

The University will receive up to \$79,000 to enhance the Recreational Mulloway Fishery in the Tweed, Richmond, Hastings and Georges Rivers through responsible stocking.

The National Marine Science Centre

The National Marine Science Centre will receive up to \$72,000 to provide a sustainable recreational fishing excursion experience for NSW school groups. The project will create displays on a recreational fishing theme to promote key attributes of the recreational fishing experience, including responsible handling and safe release of fish.

The Bass Sydney Fishing Club

The fishing club will receive up to \$45,000 to construct and interpret four fish ladders in the Parramatta CBD to facilitate fish movement and provide access for recreational fishers to significant freshwater habitats in the Parramatta River.

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Incorporated, Port Stephens Flotilla

The Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Incorporated, Port Stephens Flotilla, will receive up to \$37,500 for an emergency response service project. The project will identify existing gaps in radio coverage in the areas of Port Stephens, Myall Lakes and 12 nm seaward, and extend radio coverage to these areas to improve the safety of the fish boating public.

The Australian National Sportfishing Association – NSW Branch

The Australian National Sportfishing Association in NSW will receive up to \$34,900 to provide 150 angel rings for mobile police units to assist in rescuing anglers.

The Mallabula Jetty Committee

The Jetty Committee will receive up to \$34,480 to restore and improve Mallabula Jetty and the adjacent reserve. The project will make safe a public jetty on the Tanilba Bay/Mallabula foreshore and enhance the local community's use of the popular fishing facility.

The Nelligen Progress Assoc.

The Nelligen Progress Assoc. will receive up to \$24,800 to provide the Nelligen pontoon wharf — a public floating pontoon wharf — with a ramp to the river bank to enhance access to recreational fishing in the river.

The Lake Eucumbene Chamber of Commerce

The Lake Eucumbene Chamber of Commerce will receive up to \$22,840 to extend the Old Adaminaby boat ramp. This project will extend the length of the existing ramp to enable usage, at times of low water levels.

Mr Les Wilton

Mr Wilton will receive up to \$22,480 to upgrade the Tanilba Bay boat ramp.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW Inc.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW will receive up to \$22,400 to produce a rock fishing safety DVD in several languages to highlight the dangers of rock fishing.

Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (Port Stephens Division)

The Coastal Patrol will receive up to \$18,900 to buy and install radio directional finders on Port Stephens life boats. These will aid accurate and timely detection of recreational fishing and other boats when they need assistance.

The Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (Newcastle Division)

The Coastal Patrol will receive up to \$18,900 to buy and install radio directional finders at the Newcastle Base and on lifeboats. The equipment will greatly enhance the safety of all recreational fishers and other seeking emergency assistance.

The NSW Spearfishing and Freediving Association Pty Ltd

The NSW Spearfishing and Freediving Association will receive up to \$18,500 to produce a spearfishing information pack and codes of conduct — this educational tool will promote responsible and ethical spearfishing practices in NSW.

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (NF14 Port Kembla)

The Coast Guard will receive up to \$11,000 for the Bald Hill radio link. The Coast Guard will install an intermediate, remotely controlled radio link on Bald Hill, Stanwell Park, which will significantly improve the safety level for recreational fishermen and other small boat operators.

Australian National Sportfishing Association Ltd

The Australian National Sportfishing Association will receive up to \$8,160 for a National Rock Safety Package. Through the project, all the Association's State branches will receive a package of rock fishing safety equipment.

Sydney Metropolitan Division of the NSW Fishing Clubs Association Ltd

Sydney Metropolitan Division of the NSW Fishing Clubs will receive up to \$3,630 for a children's and disabled persons fishing awareness and participation day.