



The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Western New South Wales

OM20/6346

Mr Stan Konstantaras
President
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW
PO BOX 328
MATRAVILLE NSW 2036

president@rfansw.com.au

Dear Mr Konstantaras

Thank you for your letter of 19 October 2020 regarding the impacts on fishing of rural irrigators' activities, I appreciate the reasons that have prompted you to write.

As you are aware, the expenditure of recreational fishing licence fees is overseen by trust committees and the NSW Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFNSW), made up of recreational anglers.

The willingness of the RFNSW to support the development of an irrigation screening industry is an example of the angling community's commitment to recovering native fish populations and improving the health of NSW rivers. It has been encouraging to see angling stakeholders take such a proactive stance in working with the irrigation sector to minimise the loss of native fish through irrigation diversions.

Less than five per cent of all Recreational Fish Trusts' funds allocated to fish screening projects have been spent on the construction of screens themselves. The bulk of the funds allocated from the Trusts have been used for research, development and engagement activities to provide the irrigation sector with the technical expertise and investment certainty for the widespread adoption of fish screening technology.

The Department of Primary Industries Fisheries (DPI) – Fisheries has sought to support this process through establishing a steering committee and an upcoming expert workshop involving recreational fishers and irrigation industry stakeholders to identify innovative solutions and to maximise external investment in screening projects.

The NSW Government continues to support collaboration and partnerships with irrigation sector participants to minimise the loss of fish through water diversions.

I trust this is of assistance, however if you have any further enquiries, I have asked Dr Craig Boys, Senior Research Scientist with DPI Fisheries, to be available to answer any questions you may have. Dr Boys can be contacted on 0428 272 174.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Adam Marshall
MINISTER

CC: The Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing

30/4/2020