



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Meredith Hunter MLA (Deputy Chair)

Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA, John Hargreaves MLA, Caroline Le Couteur MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

1. Name of organisation Capital Region Fishing Alliance Incorporated
2. Name of contact person & telephone and email contact details
Shane Jasprizza
3. Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT 2011-2012 Budget?
 1. Funding for native fish stocking (Murray Cod and Golden Perch) in ACT's lakes and ponds.
 2. Funding to address invasive fish species such as European Carp and English Perch (Redfin).
 3. Funding to restore and enhance native fish habitat in ACT's waterways.

Comment 1. Murray Cod and Golden perch do not breed successfully in the artificial environment of ACT's urban ponds. Stocking of juvenile fish is required to maintain viable populations of these species. Funding has declined significantly in recent years which puts at risk the local populations of these iconic but vulnerable native fish. Current stocking comes from "left over" funding from Parks, Conservation and Lands as well as small amounts raised by local fishing clubs. Dedicated, secure funding is needed.

2. Invasive, non-native species such as European Carp and Redfin have detrimental impacts on native fish populations. CRFA would like to see programs funded to assist in control of pest fish species (noting that rabbit and certain weed control programs have been funded).

3. Land clearing on construction of urban ponds has led to relatively barren habitats for native fish species. CRFA would like to see a program funded to reintroduce native fish habitat into ACT's urban ponds to increase their carrying capacity for native species.

Funding for action in these 3 areas would go a long way in reversing the dominance of invasive pest species, improving the situation for our native species and enhancing the overall quality of the aquatic environment.
4. Did you provide a budget submission to the Government?
 Yes (go to question five) No (go to question six)
5. Do you think that the Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?
 Yes No

Comment CRFA have been advised by PCL staff that their budget submission for fish stocking and carp reduction was not funded. CRFA worked closely with PCL, TAMS, National Capital Authority staff as well as scientists, researchers and MDBA staff to develop the PCL submission and were disappointed that it was not funded.
6. What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas listed in question three?
Comment CRFA welcomes funding in the budget to address issues relating to the aquatic environment, such as Invasive Weed Control, Restoration of Waterways and Surrounds and the Molonglo Riverside Park planning, but would like to see more direct action to improve native fish numbers and native fish habitat and to address invasive fish species in ACT's waterways.

7. Are there any particular issues you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?
 Yes No
8. Please provide a brief outline of the issue/s, in order of priority. Recreational fishing is a popular pastime for many Australians and contribute significantly to coastal and inland communities. The number and variety of waterways within the ACT are greatly underutilised due to poor water quality and the dominance on undesirable invasive species. The CRFA believes that investment to address and improve ACTs waterways for native species has the potential to be returned many times over to the region, not only in terms of improvement to the overall health of the aquatic environment, but also in realising the untapped potential of the region as a recreational fishing destination of choice. [Please append your organisation's budget analysis if available]
9. Does your organisation want to attend a hearing on 13May 2011?
 Yes
 No

If you have indicated yes, the Committee Office will contact you by COB Tuesday 10 May to confirm details. (Please note however, that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups).

Please return by 12.00 noon, Monday 9 May 2011

Thank you
