



“Conservation through sustainable use. Making people part of the solution”

“The Voice of NSW Recreational Fishers”

PO Box 200
Byron Bay NSW 2481
25/10/07.

FISHERS: Please note. Here is a letter of enthusiastic support, from ECOfishers, for an environmental initiative that will benefit Clarence Valley recreational fishers. Without ECOfishers support, there is nil chance of securing \$30,000 for these works.

So there are 30,000 reasons, for your Club to affiliate with ECOfishers. We do all the negotiating, all the travelling, all the meetings, all the wheeling and dealing, write all the letters, send all the faxes and emails, make all the phone calls etc, that fishers want done. Yet they are reluctant to contribute funds to ECOfishers. Why? How about it? **When fishers support ECOfishers, fishers win!**

Re: Shallow Channel (Yamba) rehabilitation.

ECOfishers, the voice of NSW recreational fishers, thoroughly endorses the remediation and rehabilitation proposal, for the “Shallow Channel,” site near Yamba.

The area has a high visitation rate from tourist family recreational fishers.

We are familiar with the site and the perennial problems, (via on site inspections) created by public works during the 1960’s. It has been a bane and environmental blight, to recreational fishers ever since.

The luxuriant beds of Zostera have been seriously depleted, toxic algal blooms are not infrequent, tidal flushing has been severely reduced and the once vast areas of Luderick weed, have been reduced significantly. And so has the fish habitat.



What once was a haven for recreational fishing families, shore and wading birds and the Clarence community, is now a badly degraded shadow of its former self. Currently, it is an environmental nightmare.

The fact that the proposed remediation and rehabilitation works will literally, provide fish access and egress again, between the Clarence River and Lake Wooloweyah, (a vital nursery area,) is outstanding.

Additionally, problem areas of bank erosion will be addressed and improved tidal flows will reduce the impacts of acid sulphate discharge and reduce the notorious fish kills.

The proposal is so comprehensive and effective in fact, that it will restore freshwater regimes in adjacent poorly drained freshwater creeks and their associated essential wetlands.

Apart from the major targeted environmental and ecological benefits in this proposal, there are a number of associated fringe fishing and environmental related benefits. Important issues such as meaningfully and effectively reducing sediment accumulation, in Shallow Channel, regulating the water temperature to a sustainable non-lethal level and reducing the nutrient loads, thereby improving dissolved oxygen levels, are all planned initiatives.

Thus the benefits are enormous and on-going. Recreational fishers of the northern rivers are excited at the prospects by this co-ordinated approach – at last.

While we are constantly losing traditional recreational fishing sites, for a multiplicity of reasons, here is an outstanding opportunity to reclaim a significant site for the community, for fishers, for the environment and for the future.

ECOfishers, on behalf of NSW recreational fishers, enthusiastically supports the proposal. We commend it as an urgent priority, for the allocation of \$30,000 in funding.

Ken Thurlow
CEO ECOfishers NSW.



