



Department of
Primary Industries

NSW Fish for the Future; Fish-friendly Water
Extraction Project

Guidelines and Conditions for Expression of Interest Program

Northern Basin Toolkit

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Published by the NSW Department of Primary Industries

Guidelines and Conditions for the Expression of Interest Program

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More information

www.fishscreens.org.au/eoi/

Acknowledgments

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© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2022. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (May 2022). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.

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Guidelines and Conditions

About the Fish-friendly Water Extraction Project

The Fish-friendly Water Extraction Project aims to sustain native fish populations and protect vital irrigation infrastructure by installing modern fish screens on water diversions along the northern Murray-Darling Basin.

The installation of modern fish screens will prevent large numbers of native fish from being sucked into irrigation pumps and diverted into irrigation channels.

The screens will provide significant ecological benefits by supporting native fish-populations across the region and improving the health of the river system.

They will also benefit water users by delivering cleaner water and reducing the need to unblock sprinklers and backflush pumps. and will create regional job opportunities during construction.

Many showcase sites have already been retrofitted with new technology across the region, and asset owners are already reporting the benefits of replacing outdated 'trash racks'.

The project is part of the [Northern Basin Toolkit Measures Program](#). These 'toolkit measures' aim to improve the ecological health of the northern Basin, while creating jobs and economic activity in rural and regional communities.

This project is being delivered under the Murray–Darling Basin Plan by the Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries and Water Infrastructure NSW. It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.



Photo credit: Tom Rayner, DPI Fisheries

About modern fish screens

Modern fish-protection screens are good for farms and good for fish. They represent a new best practice, with real benefits for businesses and biodiversity.

Modern screens work. They protect 90 per cent of native fish (Boys et al. 2021) and keep clean water flowing to farmers. They keep fish and debris out of irrigation infrastructure and in our rivers.

Modern screens are an important complementary measure for environmental restoration efforts. They ensure benefits of environmental flows are maximised for native fish populations.

Modern fish screens are available for all types of water diversions. Different types of screens are available for any size of pump or gravity-fed irrigation channels.

Modern fish screens are self-cleaning. They feature self-cleaning brushes and water jets that keep the surface clean. That means less maintenance and downtime for farmers.

More information

For more information on the project and modern fish screens:

- visit fishscreens.org.au
- call DPI Fisheries on 1800 677 572
- email fishscreens@dpi.nsw.gov.au

About the Expression of Interest Program

NSW Department of Primary Industries is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from progressive water users on the Barwon-Darling and lower Gwydir who would like financial and logistic assistance to upgrade their pump intake with a modern fish-protection screen.

Round One will only be open for a discrete period of time. Based on interest received in Round One, a Round Two may be considered.

Who can apply?

The program is eligible to individuals, organisations, and Local Government and State Government agencies (excluding core functions of government agencies) in the Northern Basin Toolkit area (see Figure 1.).

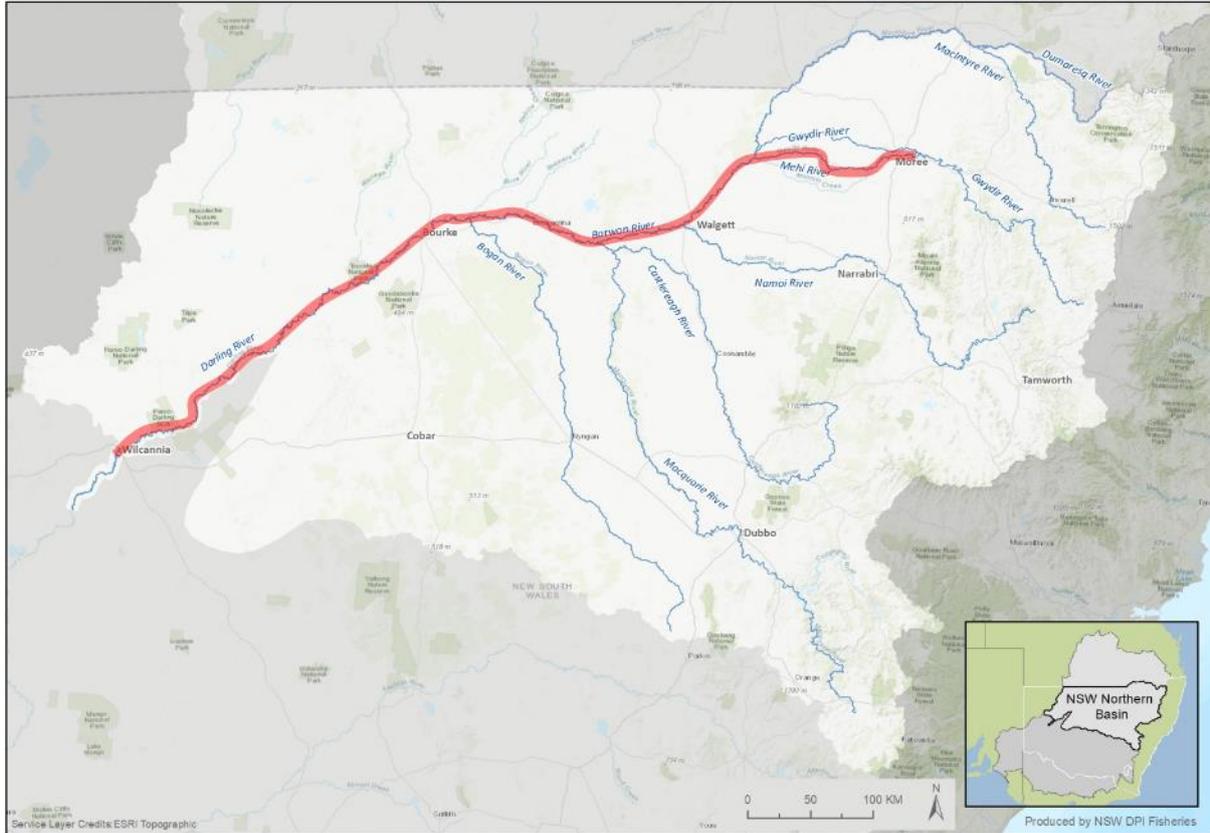


Figure 1. Northern Basin Toolkit Fish-friendly Water Extraction – project area

How to apply

Interested landholders are required to complete the following application process:

1. Complete the Fish-friendly Water Extraction Expression of Interest form, available from www.fishscreens.org.au/eoi or contact DPI Fisheries to request a form.
2. Following submission of an Expression of Interest form, an officer from DPI Fisheries will contact you.

How will EOIs be assessed?

Under Round One of the EOI Program, up to 100% of capital costs for individual installations may be funded if the project fully satisfies criteria including the overall benefit for native fish, project feasibility, value for money and the capacity to improve uptake of screening technology across water use industries.

Following submission of Expression of Interest forms, all applications will be assessed by DPI Fisheries. An officer from DPI Fisheries will likely get in touch to discuss your proposed project site and diversion over the phone.

How your information is used

The information you provide to Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries in your application will be stored and used in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988. If you have any concerns about the amount or type of information we require in the applications, please contact DPI Fisheries on 1800 677 572 or email fishscreens@dpi.nsw.gov.au

DPI Fisheries will use your information for the purposes of this specific project only and DPI Fisheries will only publicly promote your project with your permission.



Photo credit: Tom Rayner, DPI Fisheries