



Department of
Primary Industries

Fish protection screens for the Lachlan River

Guidelines and Conditions for Expression of Interest Program

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Guidelines and Conditions for the Expression of Interest Program

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More information

www.fishscreens.org.au/eoi/

Acknowledgments

The Fish Protection Screens for the Lachlan River Project will be delivered by the NSW Department of Primary Industry - Fisheries and is funded through the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2023. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (September 2023). 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 project

This project aims to support native fish populations and protect water infrastructure in the Lachlan River valley, by installing modern fish-protection screens on water diversions.

These self-cleaning screens replace traditional 'trash racks'. They can protect 90% of native fish and eliminate debris, without impacting the volume of water being diverted.

Modern fish-protection screens offer ecological and economic benefits. They reduce on-farm energy use and maintenance costs, while helping maximise the outcomes from improvements to fish passage and the delivery of environmental water.

The goal of this project is to screen a number of sites on the regulated main stem of the Lachlan River, downstream from Wyangala Dam.

However, the project also presents an opportunity to gauge interest in modern screens among water users across the valley.

This project is being delivered by the NSW Department of Primary Industry – Fisheries and is funded by the Australian Government.



Photo: Tom Rayner, NSW DPI Fisheries

About modern fish-protection 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 keep fish and debris out of irrigation infrastructure and in our rivers (Boys et al. 2021).

Modern fish-protection screens are self-cleaning, with automated brushes and water jets keeping the surface free of biofouling. That means less maintenance and downtime for farmers.

The technology is now available for *all* types of water diversions, of any size and type. However, the design of the screening solution needs to be tailored to each individual diversion, to maximise performance and on-farm benefits.

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 process

NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from water users within the Lachlan River valley who would like financial and logistic assistance to upgrade their water diversion with a modern fish-protection screen.

The goal of this EOI process is identify priority sites for screening and gauge interest among water users across the valley. All water users are encouraged to submit an EOI, even if they are unsure, to help build this understanding.

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 Lachlan River catchment (Figure 1).

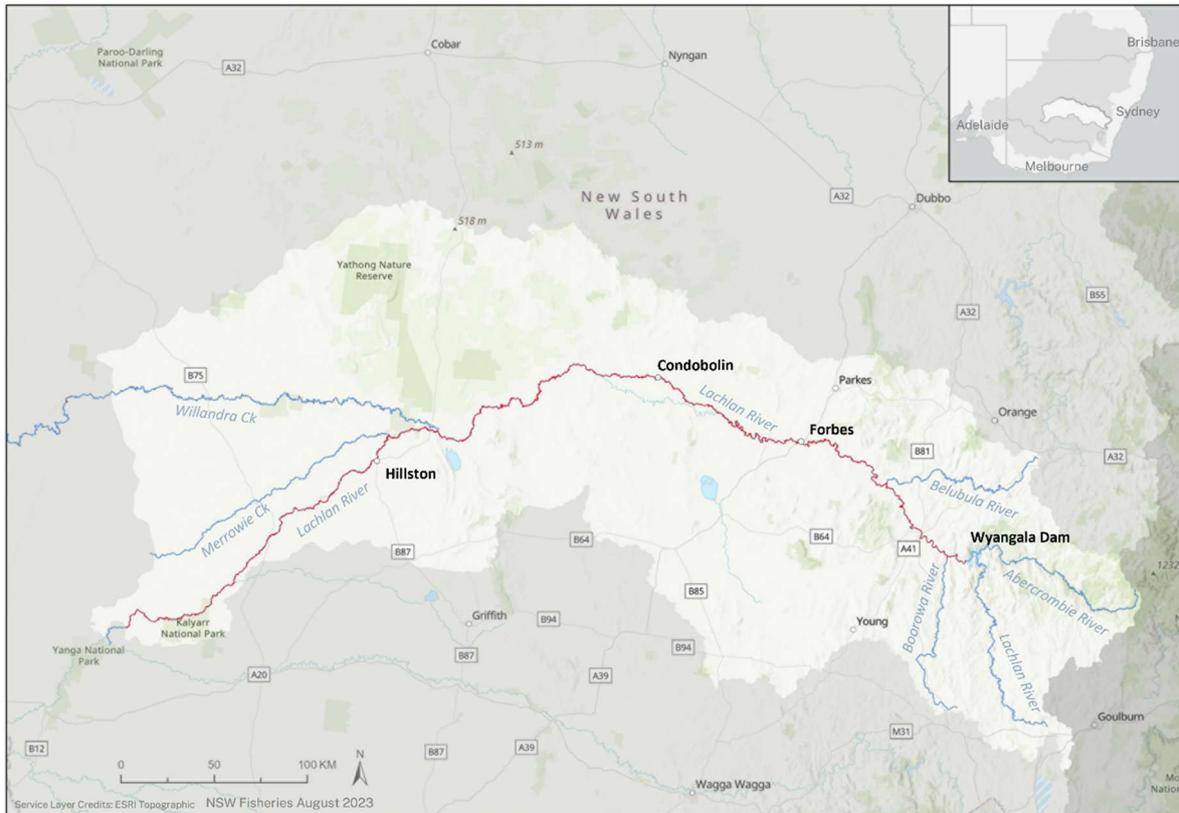


Figure 1. The target area for this project is the main stem of the Lachlan River downstream of Wyangala Dam (indicated in red). However, EOI applications are encouraged from all water users across the Lachlan River valley.

How to apply

Interested landholders are required to complete the Expression of Interest form at www.fishscreens.org.au/eoi by 10am on the 18th of October 2023.

To request a paper form, contact Fisheries on 1800 677 572 or fishscreens@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

How will EOIs be assessed?

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. Options to co-fund projects with water users may be explored.

What happens next?

All applications will be assessed by NSW DPI Fisheries. An officer from 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: Tom Rayner, NSW DPI Fisheries