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Your submission for this review:

OzFish is the premier recreational fishing conservation organisation in Australia, mobilising the passion and energy of recreational fishers and landcarers to provide high quality environmental outcomes. We have over 90 active projects throughout Australia, including seagrass and oyster bed restoration, river re-snagging and fish motels, litter prevention and cleanup, and riparian revegetation. Founded in 2017, OzFish is now well established across Australia, with recent highly successful projects driven by recreational fishers including re-snagging, survey and mapping of fish habitat, fish-translocations in the face of drought, revegetation of riverbanks and significant rubbish removal efforts. Through our numerous projects, workshops, forums and through our social media channels throughout NSW we speak with tens of thousands of NSW recreational fishers each year. One of the most difficult issues to discuss when asked is the reason why the legislatively required fishways have not been constructed. An agreement reached between WaterNSW (formerly State Water Corporation) and the Minister responsible for the Fisheries Management Act 1994 to reduce the cost of compliance with this Act following Dam Safety Upgrades at Wyangala, Burendong, Keepit and Copeton Dams allowed for much cheaper fishway construction at other WaterNSW structures in each river. This agreement was reached in 2009 and has not been delivered. The installation and operation of instream structures and other mechanisms that alter natural flow regimes of rivers and streams is one of the key threatening processes that have led to diminished fish populations in NSW with all of the major barriers to fish passage owned by the State. Many of these structures do not allow for fish passage. We note that this proposal by WaterNSW while it comes a long way to meeting their legislative compliance obligations still will not have delivered on its full legislative responsibilities by the end of this pricing period more than 20 years on! We also note that fishway construction provides a major capital burden to WaterNSW with the bulk of the costs passed on to water users (80/20). We believe that if WaterNSW had met their legislative requirement in a timely fashion a 50/50 cost sharing arrangement would have applied and as such if user concerns regarding pricing are to be considered by IPART Alternative Scenario 1 - Reducing the user share for the Environmental and Planning and Dam Safety cost share categories to 50% (from 80%) is also supported. Given the considerable delay in fish passage construction to date as well as dealing with the need to address the major issue of cold-water pollution Alternative Scenario 2 must not be considered and will be strongly opposed by recreational fishers in NSW. With recreational fishing generating roughly \$3.4 billion in economic activity each year across NSW and creating around 14,000 full-time jobs we would hope that the voices of the recreational fishing community are given due consideration.