



MEDIA RELEASE

31 August 2017

Comprehensive research will look at benefits and costs of carp control in Australia

Research to better understand the economic impact of carp and expected benefits and costs associated with carp control in Australia is now underway to inform development of a plan for the control of the pest fish species in Australia.

Principal Investigator Dr Peter Chudleigh of Agtrans Research says the project will consider both market-related issues such as changes in water treatment costs, and non-market costs and benefits such as changes in recreational fishing experiences and biodiversity.

“We will identify the benefits and costs to different industries and community groups relating to reducing carp numbers,” says Dr Chudleigh.

“While some economic analyses have been completed through earlier studies, this work will provide the most comprehensive analysis and consider market-related and non-market factors,” he says.

Co-investigator Professor Jeff Bennett, who is looking at non-market benefits and costs, says while the value the community might enjoy from carp control with reference to transactions in markets will be observed, they will also look beyond market values.

“I’m expecting that as a result of the carp control process we may see increased native fish abundance and diversity, aesthetic improvements associated with clearer waters and that may translate to recreational benefits,” says Prof Bennett.

“However, we will also look at the costs associated with carp control such as the loss of carp fishing opportunities. This program must take into consideration the needs of all stakeholders and use this information to make informed and educated recommendations to government,” says Prof Bennett.

National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) National Coordinator Matt Barwick says the research will help determine the likely benefits and costs of possible release of the carp virus.

“The aim of the NCCP is to explore how best to help return our waterways to healthier, more vibrant ecosystems through carp control, and in doing so, improve water quality for drinking, fishing and recreational activities,” says Mr Barwick.

In addition to research a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be undertaken over the next 18 months to consult with, and seek feedback from, the general public and special interest groups.

“The NCCP will use world-class research to inform recommendations to government, as well as feedback from communities, councils and special interest groups throughout Australia,” says Mr Barwick.

“Every individual will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and recommendations, whether that is via face-to-face meetings in regional locations, via their local council or representative body, or directly through our NCCP engagement tools,” says Mr Barwick.

“The NCCP is a process, and we encourage feedback and input from communities to help shape our recommendations.”

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About the National Carp Control Plan

The National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) is being prepared to explore the release of the carp virus Cyprinid herpesvirus 3. The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) is leading the \$15 million planning process on behalf of the Australian Government. At the end of 2018, the FRDC will provide the completed NCCP to the Australian Government, who will then decide whether to release the virus or not. For more information visit www.carp.gov.au

Media inquiries

Nicola Bell

0429 234 759

nicola.bell@seftons.com.au

