

Prohibition on the construction of dams on winter creeks

Recfishwest places the highest priority on preserving the future of recreational fishing and the resources it depends on in Western Australia. We are becoming increasingly concerned about the deterioration of the states freshwater resources through the continual degradation of catchment areas.

Recfishwest believes that the majority of freshwater flow problems stem from poor catchment management in rural areas. The construction of dams on winter creeks and tributaries plays a major role in reducing water flow into important freshwater rivers along the south and west coast. Below average rainfall in recent years has compounded this problem, nevertheless, the continual construction of dams on tributaries remains a major factor reducing runoff into river systems.

Recfishwest asks that you consider banning the construction of dams on all winter creeks. Alternative types of dam construction could be adopted, for example turkey nest or slope-side dam construction. We believe that subsidies could be considered to offset the increased costs for construction and/or pumping into these dams.

Recfishwest believes that this is an important issue in ensuring the sustainability of fish stocks in Western Australia Rivers. The alternative to failing to address the impact of loss of flow, increased salinity, turbidity and overall habitat deterioration would result in the demise of important aquatic species including marron, freshwater cobbler and lampreys.

Please don't hesitate to contact our office on 9246 3366 should you require further information or clarification.