



# SALTWATER AND FRESHWATER TRUSTS

## Project Milestones Report

**Report date:** 29 June 2004 – Meeting 13

**Project title:** Angel Rings

**Proponent:** NSW Branch- Australian National Sportfishing Association

**Project objectives:** Installation of Angel rings at dangerous rockfishing locations along the NSW coastline.

**Project budget:** 2<sup>nd</sup> funding instalment \$2893.00 (Inclusive of GST)

### **Milestones achieved**

Update since last report dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

After initial correspondence with the Minister assisting the Minister for Lands, The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, we were redirected to the Department of Lands Director Generals Office and his Ministerial Liaison Officer, Mr Peter Cusack. Mr Cusack redirected to Mr Tony Mott, The Community Services Manager for the Department of Lands. Discussion have taken place and it was interesting to note that Lands have been debating the issue for quite some time and were trying to resolve the issue as well. On the 6<sup>th</sup> May a submission was made to the Department of Lands (see attached). To date we have not received an answer and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June another fax was sent and a message was left for Mr Mott to contact us urgently. PLI still remains the main stumbling block and may account for the delays in getting any approval for the Department of Lands. We will be going back to the DG of the Dept of Lands and the Minister to highlight our unsuccessful attempts to resolve this matter.

The relationship between ANSA NSW and the National Parks and Wildlife Service continues to progress well, with another ring approved for installation at Royal NP and 3 or 4 more being discussed for installation at Munmorah State Rec Area on the Central Coast. Negotiations with the park had stalled over the last year, with supposed lost emails, turf wars and a myriad of small obstacles stalling the installation of an approved angel ring. This has been resolved quite quickly following the successive deaths of anglers within a short space of time at the Park. Some bad publicity in the local papers and radio has resulted in a renewed effort from NPWS to get the angel rings in place within the next few weeks. The problems we are encountering depend on the park ranger we are dealing within a specific location. Royal, Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay NP are very helpful and support the program, south and north coast NP's have proved quite difficult to work with, but we are also becoming adept at harnessing the media to fight our battles. To date NPWS is the only department to waive the need for ANSA NSW to indemnify them against any liability arising from the installation of the rings on lands managed by NPWS.



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ANSA NSW was frustrated to learn that a motion moved and voted upon at a previous RFLEC meeting to seek, on ANSA NSW's behalf a ruling from the Attorney General Office in regards to the liabilities of the Angel Ring Project and the changes to the Civil Liability Act has failed to eventuate. Our understanding is that NSW Fisheries is reluctant to ask the Minister to intervene on our behalf and that no correspondence has been entered into to date. In light of the Ministers press release dated 16/4/04 (see attached) we have expressed our disappointment at the lack of support we have received to date in trying to resolve our problems with Civil Liabilities Act and the various governments departments lack of confidence in the changes to the act. Discussions are continuing with the Minister for Primary Industries office.

ANSA NSW members have been completing Rock Fishing Surveys on behalf of the Department of Sport and Recreation in light of the work related issues faced by Fishcare Volunteers. To date (3/6/04) only 4 surveys had been returned to Katrina Hadrill from Sport and Rec via the FCV. Some surveys have been sent to fishing clubs and the survey has been modified and is prominent on the NSWF website, so coupled with surveys ANSA NSW is conducting we should have a reasonable data set by the end of next month.

Attached Angel Ring Update  
Attached Dispatch Sheet

**Variations to project (output dates, additional information, if any):**

**Comments:**

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Expected completion date: Ongoing

Form completed by: Stan Konstantaras

Date: 23.6.04

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