



## Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

# Media Release

### BUD Information Sessions

Top End residents are being urged to attend information sessions that are about the development of a Water Quality Protection Plan (WQPP) for Darwin Harbour.

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) chair John Bailey said May's information sessions would focus on the review of the current *Beneficial Use Declarations* (BUD) for the Darwin Harbour catchment.

"The BUD is an important sub-component of the WQPP and we are encouraging the community to help decide how water within the Darwin Harbour catchment should be used by choosing one or more Beneficial Use categories," Mr Bailey said.

"To determine the beneficial uses for Darwin Harbour catchment waters, we need to decide what values we place on this natural asset and are therefore seeking as much community input as possible.

"Community participation is necessary in the management of environmental, social, cultural and sustainable development issues for the Darwin Harbour catchment.

"The Darwin Harbour catchment is an essential feature of the unique lifestyle and character within the Top End, making this part of the world such an amazing place."

Mr Bailey said BUD is a legislated process under the *NT Water Act 1992* that determines the level of protection and guides the management of a water body or declared water control district that reduces the effects of water pollution.

He said previous consultation on BUD for Darwin Harbour was conducted in 1996 and was primarily directed towards water and science experts for their input on water quality standards and water uses within the catchment.

"While this year's consultation will still rely heavily on the water and science experts, we will take a broader focus and actively give the wider community an opportunity to voice their opinions," Mr Bailey said.

"To help create awareness and understanding among Territorians, the information sessions will include presentations from several key presenters from the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts.

"Key questions of course focus on what values we place on the resource for drinking or recreation, for agricultural or industrial use, for protection of aquatic ecosystems and cultural values, or for a combination of these uses."

Mr Bailey said community feedback will be encouraged following the information sessions so the community will have its chance to voice its informed opinion.

He said that people eager to find out more about the BUD for the Darwin Harbour catchment can visit [www.nt.gov.au/bud](http://www.nt.gov.au/bud) with feedback forms available next month.



*Our Harbour, Our Life, Our Future*

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Next month's information sessions will be at:

Cox Peninsula Community Government Council, Mandorah, 6.30-8pm on 1 May;  
Girraween Primary School, Litchfield, 6.30-8pm on 2 May; and  
Novotel Atrium Hotel, Darwin, 4.30-6pm on May 3.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact John Bailey on 0412 892 237**

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