



Our Harbour, Our Life, Our Future

## Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

# Media Release

### Beneficial Use Declarations (BUD) Information Sessions

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) chair John Bailey and a team of leading Northern Territory scientists will play key roles at this week's *Beneficial Use Declarations* (BUD) information sessions.

Mr Bailey urged Top End residents to attend the sessions that are about the development of a Water Quality Protection Plan (WQPP) for Darwin Harbour with a particular focus on the review of the current BUD for the Darwin Harbour catchment.

He said senior scientist David Detrick, from the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Program within the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) will be one of several scientists participating at the information sessions.

"Everyone who lives here loves Darwin Harbour and we should all work towards protecting the harbour and therefore I urge everyone to attend the information sessions," Mr Detrick said.

"A key focus of this week's information sessions is that of beneficial uses, also known as environmental values, which include but are not limited to public water supply, cultural, agricultural and aquaculture.

"What we are asking people to do is to attend the information sessions and think of as many beneficial uses as possible and fill out the feedback forms so that we, within Government, can best represent what is going on out there in the real world.

"People can email [wqpp.nreta@nt.gov.au](mailto:wqpp.nreta@nt.gov.au) or visit [www.nt.gov.au/bud](http://www.nt.gov.au/bud) for more details about the information sessions, with feedback forms currently available at the website.

"Darwin Harbour is one Australia's few harbours that are close to being in pristine condition, which is a great reason as to why everyone should work towards its continued protection and attending the information sessions and filling out feedback forms is a good starting point."

Other participants during this week's information sessions include EPA Program Aquatic Health branch manager Dr Simon Townsend and water planners within NRETA's Land and Water Division.

The information sessions will be co-ordinated by Mr Bailey who said community participation is necessary in the management of environmental, social, cultural and sustainable development issues for the Darwin Harbour catchment.

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 district that reduces the effects of water pollution.

This week's information sessions are 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 David Detrick on 8924 4214 or John Bailey on 0412 892 237**

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