



## Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

# Media Release

### Time Running Out to Submit BUD Feedback Forms

Time is running out for Territorians who want to contribute to the determination of beneficial uses for Darwin Harbour and its catchment waters.

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) chair John Bailey said Territorians had until 15 June to have their say on *Beneficial Use Declarations* (BUD) for Darwin Harbour and its catchment.

Mr Bailey said people could have their say by completing feedback forms at [www.nt.gov.au/bud](http://www.nt.gov.au/bud) or at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory as part of today's World Environment Day Expo between 10.30am and 5pm.

"I urge Territorians who want to find out more about BUD to visit the DHAC stall and find out why BUD is relevant to them," Mr Bailey said.

"We have had about 60 people complete feedback forms following last month's information sessions in Darwin, Litchfield and Mandorah.

"BUD is an important sub-component of the Water Quality Protection Plan, which is currently being developed.

"People should make the most of the opportunity currently before them in expressing their views on how water within Darwin Harbour and its catchment should be accessed or protected."

Mr Bailey said the successes of public strategies here and interstate have had a strong relationship with the depth and breadth of community input.

"While 60 feedback forms might be reasonable to some people I am sure there are more people eager to have their say, especially when you consider Darwin Harbour and its catchment impacts on 100,000 people in various ways," Mr Bailey said.

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

"Key issues worth considering are what values we place on the Harbour and its catchment such as access to fishing, groundwater use or other social, cultural or industrial values."

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 people unable to visit DHAC's stall today could visit a DHAC stall at the Palmerston Festival on 9 June 2007.

Ends

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

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