



## Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

# Media Release

### 140 Feedback Forms Received for BUD

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) chair John Bailey today thanked Territorians for presenting their views on the use of water in the Darwin Harbour catchment.

Mr Bailey said more than 140 people participated in the consultation process on Beneficial Use Declarations (BUD) by completing feedback forms on the project's website [www.nt.gov.au/bud](http://www.nt.gov.au/bud) and by mailing in feedback forms between mid-April and mid-June this year.

"The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts will now summarise and evaluate comments received from individuals and organisations before reporting back to us," Mr Bailey said.

"Once completed, the summary report will enable us to consider how the community's views compare to the currently declared Beneficial Uses and what changes, if any, need to be made.

"DHAC will then provide recommendations to the NT Government on what changes will be required to the existing regime of BU declarations.

"There has been a lot of media and community focus recently on possible developments in the Darwin Harbour region and its catchment so it will be interesting to see if or how these views were reflected in feedback forms."

He 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.

Previous consultation for BUDs 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.

Mr Bailey also said that the declaration of Beneficial Uses is an important sub-component of the Water Quality Protection Plan, which is currently being developed and the Committee will also provide recommendations on how to keep the community informed on the Plan's preparations.

Those community members interested in how this work is progressing can visit the project's website [www.nt.gov.au/wqpp](http://www.nt.gov.au/wqpp) or call the project officer on 8999 4538.

Ends

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

Issued: 9am Tuesday, 26 June 2007

