



**Media Release:**

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## **DHAC Focuses on Preserving a Healthy Harbour**

The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) has recently finalised their Terms of Reference and Statement of Expectations with a new focus on the sustainable development and the long-term protection of Darwin Harbour.

DHAC's new Chair Bill Stuchbery said it was important to have the Terms of Reference and a Statement of Expectations in place so everyone can work cohesively to achieve key outcomes.

"Environment Minister Alison Anderson has given DHAC a commitment to provide and accept information and advice in an open and transparent manner and the new Statement of Expectations will give the Committee that surety," Mr Stuchbery said.

"At the last DHAC meeting Minister Anderson stated her respect for the role of DHAC and the need for DHAC to maintain independence and committed to provide DHAC with a direct conduit to Government.

"As the new independent Chair I look forward to working with the Committee which will reconvene in the New Year, and continue to bring community views to the Northern Territory Government and provide advice on achieving great outcomes for the Darwin Harbour region.

"Balancing the many competing uses of the Darwin Harbour region is a critical role of Government and the Committee will be forthright in providing advice to Government to ensure preservation of our beautiful harbour."

Mr Stuchbery said DHAC will be paying particular attention to any future proposed developments in the region.

"Our key objectives include sustainable recreational use and enjoyment of the environment, protection of cultural values and heritage, a healthy environment in the Darwin Harbour region and community awareness and stewardship of the Darwin Harbour region," he said.

"We will soon be releasing a new Strategic Framework for community and key stakeholder input and the Committee is keen to have the final Strategic Framework endorsed by Government.

"Local Government is also expected to play a key role and their endorsement will also be sought."

Membership of DHAC comprises an independent Chairperson and key stakeholder groups.

To view the terms of reference go to [www.harbourplan.nt.gov.au](http://www.harbourplan.nt.gov.au)

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Bill Stuchbery on 0401 118 954**

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