

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

MINUTES FOR MEETING 1.

12 August 2004

9.15am – 1pm

Litchfield Room, Parliament House

Present:

John Bailey (Chair)

Brendan Dowd

John Harrison

Adele Pedder

Donna Jackson

Annie Andrews

Alastair Black

Professor Robert Wasson

Liza Schenkel

Rose Calland

Simon Townsend

Jackie Stanger

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all past and new members to the reconstituted Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee and invited members to introduce themselves.

2. APOLOGIES

Nil at the meeting. Mr Chris Young sent apologies by email.

3. PRESENTATION

The Chairman presented an overview of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management including the Committee's functions, the Plan's contents, vision, 5 goals and outcomes, priority actions and timelines.

Key points raised by Committee members:-

- *the level and types of developments or issues the Committee should be made aware of and become involved in, eg Lee Point development, Waterfront development, fishing exclusion zones.*
- *the Committee's role and responsibilities needs to be recognised by bodies responsible for applications and developments – the Committee should not need to be proactively seeking involvement in development applications and issues in the region – there is a need for protocols to ensure the Committee is consulted and involved from the early stages of developments.*

The Chairman commented that the Committee is high level and strategic, looking at the big picture issues for the region. The Committee had a role in commenting on decisions on where projects happen as an advisory body, but does not have the role of a consent authority. However, there is a need for flexibility and the Committee should also be aware of issues, and become involved in those the Committee considers relevant. The Chairman suggested that issues the Committee had considered during the year could be

included in the Annual Report, with a comment on how well the Committee had been consulted.

Action: Develop protocols to ensure Committee is made aware of issues and developments in the region and invited to be involved from an early stage.

4. MEMBERSHIP CONTACT DETAILS

Members were asked to check the membership summary sheet to ensure their details are correct.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference were presented, and the Chairman invited comments from members.

Key points raised by Committee members:-

- *Are Terms of Reference set – can they be changed*
The Chairman advised the Terms of Reference are set by the Minister, but if the Committee felt there should be changes, the Minister can be approached to consider these.
- *Does the Committee really have a role to advise on policy (pp 2, first point) as this is usually the responsibility of Government. Does Government intend passing the Department's responsibility for policy onto the Committee. How broadly can the Terms of Reference be interpreted, eg does the Committee have to wait for matters on page 2 to be referred to it by the Minister.*

The Chairman advised that he believes the core functions of the Committee gave it a broad mandate to become involved and advise the Minister on anything in the region considered by it to be relevant. As long as the Committee had the support of the community and the respect of government, it should be able to comment on all issues relating to the region. The Minister may ask for advice if the Committee has not already picked up an issue.

As a Committee representing the community, the Committee has responsibility to encourage community to be involved in recommendations on how decisions are made. The Chairman does not believe the Committee has to necessarily await an invitation to participate but could become involved in anything it felt relevant including policy, if that was an issue the community felt was relevant. The Committee needs to ensure that messages from the community on a broad range of issues are relayed to the Government, and in turn information is disseminated from the Government. The Minister also needs to be made aware of any diverging views from Committee members on particular matters.

- *Noted that Defence was not included as a committee member.*
The Chairman advised that there had been a conscious decision not to include Defence on the committee, or in fact the NT Government. However,

he feels the Committee needs to actively involve Defence wherever possible. At a future date, it may be appropriate to approach the Minister to include Defence on the Committee.

Actions:

Diarise consideration of including Defence on Committee at later date

- *Oil and gas industry representation on the Committee*
Chamber of Commerce represents industry on the Committee. Suggested review in 1-2 years to determine whether to recommend oil and gas representation.

Action: Diarise review of including a representative for oil and gas industry on Committee

Method of identify priorities from Plan over the wide region the Committee has responsibility for – how do major threats get picked up, eg ferals, weeds.
Focus is predominantly on research and monitoring at present. The Ecosystem Research and Ecosystem Monitoring groups should provide direction to the Committee on priorities and major threats.

6. COMMITTEE POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS

The draft presented is based on the previous Committee's document but procedures should be determined by the new Committee. The Chairman reiterated that where there is not consensus, dissenting views can be recorded. He also advised that as a community based Committee, apart from those deliberations that are considered confidential, all meeting agenda papers, minutes etc are open for public scrutiny. The Chairman is the only contact for the media on Committee related matters, although Committee members can make comment in their own right or representing their community group, but not on behalf of the Committee.

It was noted that a quorum consisted of 6 members and there was discussion on whether the Chairman is considered a member. It was determined that the Chairman is a member and the draft document needs to be amended to reflect this.

There was some discussion on the voting rights of the Chairperson. This will be further considered at the next meeting. Proxy voting will also be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chairman invited all members to provide comments on this document to the Project Coordinator for consideration at the next meeting.

Actions:

Amend 1.3.2 to reflect the Chairman is a member of the Committee.
Chairman and Proxy voting to be discussed at next meeting.

Members to provide any further comment on the document to the Project Coordinator – comments to be included with Agenda papers for consideration at the next meeting.
Committee Policies, procedures and protocols to be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting moved onto Agenda Items 10 and 11 to allow presentations to proceed.

10. OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE ACTION PLAN PRESENTATIONS

Steve Sutton from the DIPE Office of Environment and Heritage provided an overview of the cultural, spiritual and heritage sites in the Darwin Harbour region. The project has been funded to \$55K and will concentrate on indigenous, marine and WW2 sites. The planned work program is –

Indigenous heritage \$45,000

- Larrakia Nation will be contracted to undertake elements of the research.
- Desktop study review of previously documented material
- Physical survey
- Consultation with traditional custodians.

World War 2 sites \$10,000

- Project will be outsourced
- Analysis of records of war museum and Commonwealth archives
- Some physical survey work

Steve will provide regular progress reports to the Committee.

Actions:

Steve Sutton's Powerpoint presentation to be distributed to members.
Diarise progress report from Steve Sutton

Mike Lawton, DIPE Office of Environment and Heritage.

Mike provided an overview of the development of an NT Stormwater Management Strategy and tabled a 3 page project outline for information/discussion. Brendan Dowd advised that the DCC has a high level of interest and some budget allocated to water reuse; also the Council was working to an Environmental Management Plan that had some overlaps with this stormwater project.

Mike advised that in the past, stormwater management in the past had been ad hoc – there has been no overarching strategy. The aim of the proposed Stormwater Management Strategy is to provide a tool that focussed on better planning, for example the Weddell development would be informed by this Strategy. Where the Strategy fits into the planning process is yet to be

determined. Stormwater Regulations were being developed that will compliment the Strategy. Waste discharge is separate and is regulated by Waste Discharge licensing. The Ecosystem Monitoring Workshop group would have a role in identifying areas for specific monitoring. Donna Jackson asked that Larrakia Nation be consulted during the development of the strategy.

Mike advised the first step would be development of a discussion paper for comment Allocation of funding to particular phases of the strategy's development is yet to be determined.

Actions:

Circulate the discussion paper for comment when available.
Provide copy of Mike Lawton's handout to Chris Young Perkins Shipping, Darwin Regional Development Board and NTHA with Minutes.

11. FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION STRATEGY

Mella Martin, DIPE Marketing and Communications Unit provided a brief overview of the benefits of using the \$15K allocation to undertake research to develop, guide and evaluate communications campaigns. It was noted that the Committee needed to have a costed communications strategy in place by February to feed into the Government's budgetary cycle to seek funding for 2005/06.

After some discussion, the committee was split on the value of this approach, and Mella offered to provide the Committee with a more detailed brief for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Marketing and Education Brief to be included as Agenda item for discussion at the next meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence in and out folders were circulated for information.

Simon Townsend from DIPE provided an overview of the bid for funding for the project "Establishing River Water Quality Targets for the Darwin-Litchfield-Bynoe region" under the call for proposals under National Action Plan for Water Quality and Salinity Interim Investment initiative, and sought a letter of support from the Committee for the proposal.

While the Committee felt the project was excellent, members commented that the proposal needed to be more strongly outcome and management focussed for the Committee's support to be recognised, ie how it fits with the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management and the Committee, who will use the targets and how will they be used. Simon commented that the ongoing use of data and how the project would continue to be maximised would be discussed at the working group level.

It was agreed that the project had the in principle support of the Committee with the above comments taken into account. Members would provide any comments to Simon by Friday 20 August. There would be no requirement to further circulate the proposal.

Actions:

Members to provide further comments to Simon Townsend.
Simon to further develop the proposal taking members comments into account.
Letter of support to be drafted.

Minister's Visit

Minister Burns attended the meeting, commended the past and new members of the Committee on the work being done, and advised he was looking forward to receiving advice and working with the Committee.

The Minister offered to meet with the Committee on a quarterly basis.

Bynoe Harbour was raised with the Minister, who advised it was an important Government election commitment and undertook to ensure the Committee was involved in the consultation phase. He advised that he saw the Committee having a role in policy formation.

The Committee broke for lunch with the Minister.

Action: Send schedule of meetings to the Minister with an invitation to attend.

8. WORKING GROUPS

a) Ecosystem Research and Ecosystem Monitoring Working Groups
Additional recommendations for inclusion on groups included local government, community/landcare, museum, ERISS.

The Committee agreed

- Initially the two working groups would be combined into one with Simon Townsend as the initial Chair with a maximum of 15 members.
- The group could make recommendations on its future operations, eg it may decide to form separate research and monitoring sub committees
- Membership of the committee should be skill based rather than organisation based
- Simon Townsend would coordinate the establishment of this combined group - suggested membership would be provided for comment to Committee members.

Action: Simon Townsend to coordinate establishment of combined ERG and EMG and provide suggested membership to Committee members for comment before next meeting.

b) Indigenous Working Group

The Committee agreed

- John Bailey would be the initial chair
- Donna Jackson would provide suggested members to the Project coordinator

Actions:

John Bailey to establish indigenous working group

Donna Jackson to provide suggested members to Project coordinator.

The working groups are to be established as soon as possible, the Committee is to be kept advised of progress on establishment. The Committee Chairman would attend meetings as required.

9. WORK PROGRAMS FOR 2004-05

Carried over to next meeting.

Action

Include on next meeting Agenda.

12. SITE VISITS

Date to be determined – probably 1 day duration.

Action:

Organise site visit by end November 2004

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

14. Next Meeting

Chairman suggested meetings be monthly from 9am to 12 noon. Committee members' preferred days for meetings are Monday and Wednesday. Papers to be delivered the week prior to meetings.

Next meeting : **9am Monday 6 September – 5th floor, Energy House, Cavenagh Street, Darwin.**

Meeting closed 1pm.

