

# Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

## MINUTES FOR MEETING 4

8 November 2004

10.00am – 1.30pm

Ormiston Room, Parliament House, Darwin

### 1. WELCOME

#### Present:

##### Name

Ms Annie Andrews  
Mr John Bailey  
Mr Alastair Black  
The Hon Dr Chris Burns MLA  
Ms Leslie Cameron  
Mr Brendan Dowd

##### Representing

Business and industry  
Independent chairperson  
Darwin Port commercial interests  
Minister for Lands and Planning  
Ministerial Adviser  
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory  
Recreational fishing  
Indigenous organisations  
Environmental organisations  
Project Coordinator for the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management  
Shipping industry

Mr John Harrison  
Ms Donna Odegaard  
Ms Adele Pedder  
Ms Kira Schlusser

Mr Chris Young

Mr Bailey welcomed the members of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee and introduced Ms Donna Odegaard, who had been nominated by Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation to replace Ms Donna Jackson.

Ms Odegaard spoke about her background:

- a member of the Larrakia language group and is a Traditional Owner for Darwin and the surrounding region
- on the Board of the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and the Larrakia Development Corporation as Chairperson Marketing and Development.
- a business woman and has extensive background in Indigenous heritage, Indigenous education, land rights, native title and Indigenous land use agreements
- an indigenous researcher with national and international experience and networks with many indigenous nations.
- published works, articles and refereed journals on Indigenous legal issues and is currently completing a doctorate on the treaty debate in Australia.

Ms Rose Calland, representing rural Landcare interests, had resigned her membership on the committee and a replacement was being sought.

**Action**

Project Coordinator to follow up replacement for rural Landcare representative for next meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES****Name**

Ms Rose Calland

Ms Liza Schenkel

Dr Simon Townsend

Professor Robert Wasson

**Representing**

Rural Landcare

Urban Landcare

Chairperson of the Ecosystem

Monitoring Group

University, and Chairperson of the  
Ecosystem Research Group

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Moved: Mr Young

Seconded: Ms Pedder

**4. ACTION SHEET**

Members noted the status of actions from the previous meeting. Of note was the request for a financial statement, which would be prepared for next meeting.

**Action**

Financial statement to be ready for 6 December meeting.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

Members noted the correspondence register. The Chairman tabled a letter given to the Minister for Lands and Planning, the Hon Dr Chris Burns MLA, at their meeting on 27 October, regarding the committee's role in providing advice on developments in the region, in readiness for discussion with Dr Burns on his arrival.

**6. INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP**

Ms Odegaard tabled a report on the formation of the IWG to date. She reported that she had been in contact with at least five indigenous groups in the region, as well as government and university representatives to progress the membership of the IWG. She indicated that the process was one of selection, rather than seeking nominations to build a working group based on skills. Ms Odegaard said that mentoring younger people was important to ensure succession planning, and she had instigated action in that direction as well. She was confident that by next meeting she would be in a position to report the formation of the working group.

She had also taken steps to gather data on action 5.2, 4.3 in the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management on developing a strategy to explore the effective involvement of indigenous people in monitoring, planning and management in the Darwin Harbour region, so that the IWG could begin work on the project as soon as possible.

## **7. STATUS REPORT OF PROJECTS AND WORK PROGRAM**

Members noted the updated status of projects and work program currently underway. The project Coordinator reported:

- the Stormwater Strategy recruitment interviews were underway that day; and
- the Cultural Heritage survey project had been delayed, but discussion was underway to resolve some outstanding issues with the consultants doing the work.

### **Action**

Project Coordinator to follow up on status of projects for next meeting.

## **8. 2005-06 FUNDING BID RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Chairman explained that a timeline for providing information and bids to Treasury was not available, and therefore the committee was working to an undetermined deadline. However, bids had been prepared as far as possible for the current meeting and the remaining bids would be finished over the next few weeks in case Treasury requested them. If Treasury required bids earlier than next meeting, the project Coordinator would circulate the remaining bids out of session.

Funding bids from the Ecosystem Monitoring Group (EMG), the Ecosystem Research Group (ERG) and the Bushfires Council were considered by the committee. The Bushfires Council had prepared a preliminary bid for the meeting. A full bid would be prepared for consideration by members at 6 December meeting.

### **Ecosystem Monitoring Group**

Two bids were developed:

1. Health of the Darwin Harbour region's environment
2. Monitoring the impact of the Darwin City Waterfront area development on Darwin Harbour's environment.

### **Ecosystem Research Group**

The ERG bid was based on the groundwork being done to date on the currently funded gap analysis project and the unfunded risk analysis project. A workshop will be held on 17 December 2004 engaging a consultant to facilitate developing a conceptual model of the Darwin Harbour region's

ecosystem (see Attachment F(i)). Once this preliminary model has been developed, it will be in skeletal form requiring 'populating' with data. Funding is being sought for a position to undertake populating the model with data and for further development.

### **Other bids**

A funding bid had not been put together for the IWG project, which needed input from the working group. Similarly, preparing a bid for activities associated with the communication strategy relied on information from the research that would be done over then next month. A bid would be prepared for consideration at the next meeting. Market Equity had agreed to provide information as soon as possible.

No submissions had been received from the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development or the Office of Environment and Heritage.

### **Comments on bids**

Members of the committee sought clarification on the following:

- Monitoring of the Darwin Waterfront development – check whether any duplication of effort with other departments.
- Bushfire strategy bid – check what the equipment is for. The project should be about developing a strategy, rather than operational work putting out fires.
- Figures in health of the Darwin Harbour bid need to be made consistent.

#### **Actions**

1. Project Coordinator to prepare/organise funding bids for 6 December meeting:
  - communication strategy
  - bushfires strategy project
2. Ms Odegaard and Project Coordinator to prepare funding bid for 6 December meeting:
  - IWG project
3. Project Coordinator to follow up bids from DBIRD and OEH for next meeting.
4. Project Coordinator to check and address comments on bids as outlined in minutes by next meeting.
5. Project Coordinator to circulate bids out of session if required.

## **9. CABOMBA INFESTATION PRESENTATION**

Mr Rod Applegate, Senior Director Natural Resource Management of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment presented information about the planned eradication of Cabomba weed in sections of the Darwin River downstream of the dam. Mr Applegate provided an information package for the committee's information.

#### **10. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION STRATEGY**

Ms Mairead Kelly from Market Equity gave a brief presentation on the methods and aims of the research to be done on the population of the Darwin Harbour region. The consultants will investigate the region's familiarity with the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management and the issues regarded as important.

She said that 300 people would be interviewed by phone with the aim of finding out how well people in the region understand the Plan of Management and how they would like to be communicated with. Their level of internet usage and level of readership of the NT News would also be tested. The draft questionnaire had been provided that morning and feedback was required by Thursday so that fieldwork could start on Monday 15 November.

#### **11. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE**

Members agreed that they only wanted to be involved in developments or issues of significance, and therefore needed to define criteria for significance. The committee saw itself as being able to provide guidance on various planning aspects. Members did not want to duplicate planning authorities or create another set of approvals.

Other comments were:

- It was important the committee had more 'meaty' work.
- a discussion was needed on how to have a broader approach on planning issues
- there is a need to create a database on information in the region
- a discussion was needed on how the committee should ask the community what issues need to be addressed prior to proposals being put forward. This may include looking at what are good principles of planning and whether there would be a demand for a key document on planning principles or other relevant material for the region.
- Committee is about making sure that a framework is available for decisions that are being made.

Dr Burns arrived at the meeting to inform members that he was supportive of the committee being involved in commenting on developments in the region. He referred to the letter he had received from the committee outlining three possible options of involvement:

1. The Minister providing the committee with the authority to provide advice on developments, with the committee then approaching relevant agencies to negotiate an appropriate mechanism for involvement;

2. The Minister asking government agencies to liaise with the committee regarding developments; or
3. the committee only providing advice when specifically requested to do so by the Minister.

Dr Burns said that he did not see the committee only being involved at the option 3 level. He said that he currently thought option 2 was the most practical way forward, being a stepping stone to option 1. He indicated that he wanted to go with option 2 initially, but he would need to talk with his colleagues first, Ministers Scrymgour and Henderson, since the issues addressed in the region reached across portfolios. Discussion was needed to work out a joint mechanism for relevant government departments to be able to inform the committee about issues and developments.

He indicated that he saw option 1 as more long-term, which required amendments to the Planning Act, at which point the Terms of Reference for the committee would also need to be changed.

Dr Burns said he expected to be in a position to be able to advise the committee about a mechanism for members to be able to provide advice on developments and issues in the region by the end of the year. He undertook to work toward getting as far as possible by the next meeting on 6 December.

Members of the committee thanked Dr Burns for the opportunity for input into issues and developments in the region. Members said they appreciated his prompt response and efforts on their behalf.

## **12. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS – DARWIN WATERFRONT, LEE POINT ROAD DEFENCE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, MYILLY POINT**

Dr Burns said that until a process was developed for the committee to provide advice, the current Darwin Waterfront development, Lee Point Road and Myilly Point proposals could be addressed in the interim by writing to him directly in the first instance. He would pass on any comments with a covering letter to the relevant Ministers concerned.

The committee needed to be aware that for Myilly Point the consultation process ended on 26 November. He also said that the committee could appropriately request a briefing on the waterfront development.

Members of the committee thanked Dr Burns for making the time to attend the meeting and for addressing their concerns.

### **Comments on developments**

- Ms Pedder provided an information pack on the Darwin Waterfront development and said that she had not been able to find out what the actual height of the high rise buildings will be and whether they will rise above the escarpment. .

- Members agreed that they would consider a discussion paper about how to address issues and developments within the committee, how committee

**Actions**

1. Project Coordinator will put a framework together and email to committee members for ideas and input, which would be developed for comment, by committee members for the next meeting.
2. Project Coordinator to organise a briefing on the Darwin Waterfront development for the next meeting.
3. Project Coordinator will contact Helen Cook and find out height of buildings and how DHAC can be involved in developments.

members would provide input, and discuss this at the next meeting.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**14. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held Monday 6 December 2004.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm.