

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

MINUTES FOR MEETING 5

6 December 2004

9.00am – 1.30pm

Litchfield Room, Parliament House, Darwin

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Present:

Name

Ms Annie Andrews
Mr John Bailey
Mr Alastair Black
The Hon Dr Chris Burns MLA
Mr Ian Lancaster
Ms Mella Martin

Ms Kira Schlusser

Professor Bob Wasson
Mr Chris Young

Representing

Business and industry
Independent chairperson
Darwin Port commercial interests
Minister for Lands and Planning
Departmental Liaison Officer
Marketing and Communications Unit
of DIPE
Project Coordinator for the Darwin
Harbour Regional Plan of
Management
Charles Darwin University
Shipping and transport industry

Apologies:

Name

Mr Brendan Dowd

Mr John Harrison
Ms Donna Odegaard
Ms Adele Pedder
Ms Liza Schenkel

Representing

Local Government Association of the
NT
Recreational fishing interests
Indigenous interests
Environment organisations
Urban Landcare

Mr Bailey said Ms Odegaard had been appointed a member of the committee by the Minister for Lands and Planning. He also said the process for appointing a new horticultural or agricultural representative was underway.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Minister for Lands and Planning, the Hon Dr Chris Burns, arrived at the meeting and reported other relevant ministers had accepted his proposal that the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee be informed about major developments and provide advice to Government. He said currently the committee's current role was administrative, but that would change with statutory responsibilities assigned to it under the Planning Act, once legislation was passed in Parliament around February 2005.

Dr Burns said that policy issues and the potential for delays in approving development applications needed to be addressed with the relevant

Government departments. He suggested contacting his advisor, Ms Leslie Cameron, in the first instance to progress the matter.

Mr Lancaster suggested the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management could be included in the Office of Environment and Heritage's guidelines, which are provided to proponents of developments to assist them with preparing a Public Environment Report or Environmental Impact Statement. This would mean that a proponent would need to take the plan of management into account when preparing a PER or EIS.

Members of the committee commented:

- They wanted to be briefed by departments about policy, directions and thinking in relation to the Darwin Harbour region.
- Discussions with Development Assessment Services may facilitate understanding of some of the bigger picture policy objectives with respect to planning for sustainable development.

Actions

- The Project Coordinator will contact Ms Cameron to begin the process of discussions with Government departments.
- Mr Lancaster and Ms Schlusser will make arrangements with the Office of Environment and Heritage to include the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management on guidelines given to the proponent of a development.

3. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION STRATEGY

Ms Mairead Kelly from Market Equity presented the key research results of the region's knowledge on the awareness, understanding, knowledge and attitudes towards the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management. A final report would be provided to the committee within a couple of days.

Ms Mella Martin from the Marketing and Communications Branch of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment would be preparing a communication and education strategy based on the recommendations of the final report. A funding bid would also be prepared based on the strategy in time for the submission deadline of 14 December.

Actions

Project Coordinator will:

- Liaise with Ms Martin on the development of the education and communication strategy.
- Prepare a funding bid based on the education and communication strategy and circulate it to members for comments before the 14 December deadline.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Mr Young
Seconded: Ms Andrews

5. ACTION SHEET

Members noted the action sheet.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted the correspondence register.

7. STATUS REPORT OF PROJECTS AND WORK PROGRAM

Members noted the updated status of projects.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Members noted the financial report and discussed the need to receive expenditure reports from project managers who had been funded by the committee.

Action

If required, the Chairman and Project Coordinator will meet with Sarah Butterworth, Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, to discuss financial reporting arrangements to the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee.

9. INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP

The Chairman said he spoken with Ms Odegaard, who was unable to attend the meeting, and that a number of people were interested in forming an Indigenous Working Group. Ms Odegaard would provide names to the Project Coordinator so they could be formally invited to form a working group by the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee. The first meeting was planned for February.

Action

- Ms Odegaard will provide a list of nominees for the Indigenous Working Group to the Project Coordinator.
- The Project Coordinator will organise letters of invitation to prospective members of the Indigenous Working Group on behalf of the committee.

10. ECOSYSTEM MONITORING GROUP

The Project Coordinator reported that Mr Jeff Morgan had been appointed to conduct the monitoring review. He had prepared a work program, which was currently being circulated to the members of the Ecosystem Monitoring Group.

Once comments had been received the work program would be distributed to the committee members for comment.

Action

The Project Coordinator will provide copies of Mr Morgan's work plan to the committee for their information or comment.

11. ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH GROUP

Professor Wasson referred to the upcoming 17 December workshop, which would focus on developing a conceptual model for the Darwin Harbour region. He said that members of the committee would meet with the consultants during the two days before the workshop to provide input into the model. Members of the committee were also welcome to attend the workshop.

12. 2005-06 FUNDING BID RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chairman explained that bids needed to be submitted by 14 December. The format of the submissions would need to be changed, including those the committee had previously considered, due to a new proforma, which differed from last year.

The committee endorsed the funding proposal put forward by Ms Odegaard: developing a strategy toward the effective involvement of indigenous people in monitoring, planning and management of cultural and natural resources in the Darwin Harbour region.

13. DRAFT DISCUSSION PAPER

Members agreed to postpone discussion of the paper until the next meeting due to time constraints and so that the members who were absent from the meeting would have an opportunity to comment.

Action

Members to comment on the discussion paper at the next meeting.

14. WEBSITE

Members noted the updated website. Suggestions to improve the site would be welcome at any time.

Action

The Project Coordinator will find out whether the reports on mangrove monitoring written by ConocoPhillips can be linked to the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee website.

15. DRAFT NEWSLETTER

Members noted the text of the draft newsletter. The Chairman said that the newsletter was expected to go out to approximately 500 people in January 2005.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

16.1. The Project Coordinator had made enquiries about a briefing on Myilly Point and been told that briefings were not available. The information for anyone interested in the issue consisted of literature that was already available.

16.2. A briefing on the Lee Point Road housing development would be organised for the next meeting.

16.3. The committee discussed the need to meet with the Executive Director of the Office of Environment and Heritage and the officers responsible for the Stormwater Strategy project and the Cultural Survey project to discuss ways of assisting with the timely completion of the work by mid 2005.

Actions

- The Chairman and Project Coordinator will arrange a meeting with the Office of Environment and Heritage to discuss ways of assisting with the timely completion of relevant projects by mid 2005.
- The Project Coordinator will organise a briefing on the Lee Point Road housing development for the next meeting.

17. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday 7 February 2005.

18. DARWIN WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

Members of the committee attended a briefing given by Mr Larry Bannister from the Department of the Chief Minister on the proposed Darwin Waterfront development.

Questions or comments by members of the committee were answered in the first instance by Mr Bannister or later referred to Mr Terry O'Neil, Technical Director, Department of the Chief Minister, and included:

- Where and how contaminated soil from the site would be disposed of. Mr O'Neil indicated that there were three classes of soil to be removed from the site:
 1. Hydrocarbon impacted soil that would be either bioremediated at the Shoal Bay Waste Disposal Site, subject to agreement with Darwin City Council, or at Hidden Valley.

2. A lead-zinc mineralised soil from the top 200mm of around 6000-7000 cubic metres of soil that may be disposed of by special burial at Shoal Bay Waste Disposal site, subject to negotiation; and
 3. A relatively innocuous iron ore residue from the bottom 700mm of the same stockpile of soil that would be taken to the ponds at East Arm or used as landfill. The main consideration with this type of mineralised soil was to prevent iron ore leachate entering Darwin Harbour.
- Is the current design open for comment and thus changes? Submissions would be possible during the public consultation phase, once development applications were lodged. The plan had been developed with feedback from focus groups that had provided input into what they did and did not want as part of the development.
 - What was the decision making process that allowed some buildings to rise higher than the escarpment? Mr Bannister said that the Government had always indicated that the main section of the development, which does not include the area where the high rise developments are to be sited, would not rise above the escarpment. He said that Government had been consistent with this pledge.
 - Will an EIS be conducted on the final development design? Mr O'Neil said that an Environmental Impact Assessment had been completed on the proposed development. He said that several plans for managing the effects of construction were available, including a Remediation Action Plan, a Site Management Plan and an overarching environmental management framework, which provided protocols and measures for dealing with the site overall. Each contractor would also be required to prepare an Environmental Management Plan.
 - Had the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that would be generated from the use of electricity in the site been worked out or minimised? Connell Wagner had included an Environmental Sustainable Development Plan as part of their bid, which included environmental design principles such as maximising breezes, minimising air conditioning use, using photovoltaic cells and using the latest technology in designing the structure.

Action

The Project Coordinator will organise a presentation from the Office of Environment and Heritage on the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Darwin Waterfront development.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.