



# Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

## MINUTES FOR MEETING 6

7 February 2005

9.00am – 12.00pm

Level 5 conference room, Energy House, Darwin

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

#### Present:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Ms Annie Andrews	Business and industry
Mr John Bailey	Independent chairperson
Mr Alastair Black	Darwin Port Corporation
Mr Brendan Dowd	Local government interests
Mr John Harrison	Recreational fishing interests
Ms Donna Odegaard	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
Ms Adele Pedder	Environment Centre of the NT
Ms Kira Schlusser	Project Coordinator, Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management
Ms Liza Schenkel	Landcare
Dr Simon Townsend	Ecosystem Monitoring Group (EMG)
Professor Bob Wasson	Charles Darwin University
Mr Chris Young	Shipping and transport industry

Mr Bailey welcomed the members of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) and informed them that:

- The Office of Environment and Heritage had postponed their presentation until the next meeting;
- Copies of the newsletter, draft Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, Cabinet budget submission and the draft communication strategy were provided separately to the agenda papers and were available for inspection.
- An alternative horticultural/agricultural representative was expected to be appointed by next meeting.

### ***PREVIOUS BUSINESS***

#### 2. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Ms Andrews

Seconded: Mr Young

#### 3. ACTION SHEET AND STATUS REPORT

Mr Bailey drew the committee's attention to a number of items:

- Attachment 2A: Item 14 – DHAC will receive 4 copies of the mangrove monitoring report from ConocoPhillips, to be shared among members.

Due to the large number of colour plates printing costs were very high, so a copy for each member was not possible. However, Mr Steve Moore from ConocoPhillips had said that he would prepare a summary, which would be made available on ConocoPhillips' website in due course, and also be available for the DHAC's website;

- Attachment 2A, Item 16: Two officers have been recruited to prepare a storm water strategy and Mr Michael Lawton from the Office of Environment and Heritage will present an update at the next meeting;
- Attachment 2B: code 5.1, 2.2: the database is continuing to be updated;
- Attachment 2B: code 4.1, 1.1: Mr Steve Sutton from the Office of Environment and Heritage will update the committee about the cultural survey project at the next meeting.

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Bailey drew attention to a couple of new items since the agenda papers were distributed:

- IN: Comments from various agencies on budget Cabinet submission
- IN: Letter requesting support for a PhD

Correspondence noted.

#### 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Committee members noted the financial statement. Members requested that estimates of commitments and forecasts of expenditure be provided for next meeting to determine how much would be available for other projects in time for the end of the financial year.

<p><b>ACTION:</b> Next financial statement to include estimates of commitments and forecasts of expenditure.</p>
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#### 6. DRAFT COMMUNICATION PLAN

Committee members noted that the timeline of actions in the communication plan started in February 2005, which was before any 2005-06 budget funds would be available.

Members endorsed the plan in principle, noting that it is intended for next financial year. They agreed if the funding bid was successful the plan would be implemented pending further discussion on allocation of funds to different media.

Concerns were also raised about the communication plan being used to promote the NT Government. However, members noted that DHAC is an advisory committee to the Government and it would be appropriate for the NT Government to show its commitment to the committee's role by demonstrating where it had made changes in line with DHAC's advice.

**ACTIONS:**

1. The timeline of the communication plan would be changed to fit in with availability of funds for 2005-06.
2. Allocation of funds to different media will be discussed if funds became available.

**7. INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP (IWG)**

Mr Bailey said that letters of invitation had been prepared they would be posted as soon as possible. Mr Bailey, Ms Odegaard and Ms Schlusser would also meet to discuss arrangements for the first IWG meeting. Ms Odegaard said that, while it had taken some time to provide a list of potential members due to the complexity of the task, she thought that the group would be effective at a grass roots and executive level.

The first meeting of the IWG was planned for mid to late March.

**ACTION:** Mr Bailey, Ms Odegaard and Ms Schlusser to meet and prepare for the first IWG meeting and report back to the committee.

**8. ECOSYSTEM MONITORING GROUP (EMG)**

Dr Townsend reported that the EMG had met recently to review work done by Mr Jeff Morgan, who had been employed to provide an inventory and assessment of current monitoring activities in order to work toward an integrated regional monitoring program. An article about the project had been published in the latest January 2005 committee newsletter. To date about 50 people had been interviewed about their monitoring activities and the information would be put onto a database, which would eventually be linked to the DHAC website.

The EMG in conjunction with the ERG would be undertaking a risk assessment of potential threats to the environment and Mr Morgan would present a report on this process to the committee in May. One of the outcomes of the project was to establish more efficient sharing and integration of information.

**9. ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH GROUP**

Professor Wasson reported that the ERG had held a workshop in December 2004 regarding the development of a conceptual model for Darwin Harbour and a draft report was awaiting his comments. He indicated that he would be in a position to provide further information to the committee once the report had been finalised. Further discussion about the research and monitoring programs are provided under Agenda Item 11.

## 10. PRESENTATION BY DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT SERVICES

Mr Mark Meldrum, Manager of Urban Planning in Darwin and Palmerston areas for Development Assessment Services in the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE) gave a presentation on the *Planning Act 1999* and some of the proposed changes to the Act. These include collating land use objectives into one document and changing third party appeal rights.

The Chairman thanked Mr Meldrum for his presentation and asked if copies of his presentation could be made available to committee members.

Members of the committee then discussed the proposed Defence Housing Authority Lee Point Road development and the need to work towards innovative designs and best environmental practice on new releases of land, for example, managing storm water in a sustainable way. Members thought that their role should be to promote and encourage better planning and design.

### Actions

1. Project Coordinator to prepare background on the current state of the DHA proposal for the next meeting.
2. A copy of the disc from Mr Meldrum's presentation will be made available and a hard copy will be printed out.
3. A copy of the amendments to the *Planning Act 1999* will be provided to members for the next meeting.

## 11. 2005-06 FUNDING BID

Mr Bailey reported that the 2005-06 funding Cabinet submission had been signed by the acting Minister for Lands and Planning, Dr Toyne. The Cabinet submission would then go to Treasury, back to Minister Burns' office and then to Cabinet for 28 February sittings.

Mr Young reported on his meeting with the CEO of DIPE, Ms Sarah Butterworth, Mr David Ritchie, Executive Director of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Project Coordinator. He said Ms Butterworth had asked that the committee provide her with suggestions for communicating between DIPE and the committee.

Mr Bailey said he would be meeting with Minister Burns on 21 February to discuss the Cabinet submission. He said that some working of project priorities or where funding could be cut would need to be done in case the Minister requested the information.

Professor Wasson expressed concern that the submission had not included funds to build on the monitoring and research work AIMS had started in Darwin Harbour. He noted that AIMS had invested around one million dollars on research in Darwin Harbour and that if momentum was to continue further funds would be needed. Professor Wasson had met with researchers from

AIMS and, as a result of these discussions, thought it was important to work out a collaborative approach to data collection and long term monitoring in the harbour.

Professor Wasson said he wanted to discuss strategic implications of funding and research jointly with AIMS, the Chairperson of the EMG, Dr Townsend and Mr Bailey. He said it was important to formulate a strategic research and development program with secure commitment for funding. He said that the data was needed in order to do quality research in the region. He was also concerned about a lack of an *ongoing* monitoring program and indicated that a long term committed program was needed, which should include monitoring of organics. Professor Wasson also thought it was important to maintain some monitoring and research action in the harbour, which required that the key players monitoring the harbour needed to meet to work out a process to stop disjointed data collection and work out a cohesive strategy.

The committee agreed that a meeting would be organised to address collaborative research issues with AIMS.

Committee members agreed that the EMG should complete its current task of developing an integrated regional monitoring program and would be asked to address the monitoring issues raised by Professor Wasson in the first instance.

Mr Harrison said that funds could be available from the Amateur Fishermen's Association to augment funding from the NT Government and AIMS.

**ACTIONS:**

1. Committee members to consider Ms Butterworth's request for advice on how DIPE should communicate with the DHAC next meeting.
2. Project Coordinator to arrange a meeting to discuss monitoring and research in the Darwin Harbour with relevant parties.
3. EMG to be approached to address issues regarding the need for long term monitoring and other issues noted above.

**12. WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION**

The Office of Environment and Heritage rescheduled the presentation to 7 March 2005.

Members raised concerns about the dumping of dredging spoil and removal of contaminated soil at the waterfront development site and did not think that enough information was provided for the Development Consent Authority to be able to make a decision to grant permission to start the project.

Committee members agreed that a letter should be written to Minister Burns outlining the following points:

- More time and resources was needed to deal with site contamination and dredging issues before consent to go ahead should be given;
- A remedial action plan approved by a contamination auditor was needed to deal with site contamination;
- Conditions for dealing with contamination and dredging issues needed to be outcome-based rather than general, as was currently the case;
- The development process to date had not been ideal and should not set a precedent for future development processes;
- The EIS done prior to the development was based on a concept rather than an actual plan and was probably not as relevant as it could be;
- The individual EIS process for development applications is a piecemeal approach and cannot consider the impact of cumulative or synergistic effects of all the proposed developments on the site.

**Action:**

Project Coordinator to draft a letter to Minister Burns and the Development Consent Authority regarding the points outlined above and circulate it to members for arrival at Minister Burns' office by 11 February 2005.

**13. DISCUSSION PAPER ON DHAC'S INVOLVEMENT IN MAJOR POLICIES, PROPOSALS AND ZONING PLANS**

Since time was short, members agreed to provide comments on the paper to the Project Coordinator, who would present them at the next committee meeting.

**ACTIONS:**

1. Committee members to provide comments on the discussion paper to the Project Coordinator before the next meeting;
2. Project Coordinator to present a summary of comments at the next meeting.

***BUSINESS ARISING***

**14. DRAFT INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (INRM) PLAN**

Members noted the comments provided on the INRM Plan had been submitted on 31 January 2005. Concern was raised about potential overlapping of issues with the development of the Parks Master Plan and the proposed eastern Marine Protected Areas Plan.

**15. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Marine Industry Advisory Body**

Mr Bailey said that he had attended two meetings and would report to DHAC regarding the activities of the Marine Industry Advisory Body.

### **Printing**

Members noted the new quotes for printing 30 copies of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management and agreed to go ahead with printing. Copies would be needed for the new IWG members.

### **Proposed Glyde Point Development and Hudson Creek boat ramp**

Mr Harrison raised the issue of the Glyde Point development and that it falls within the reference area of the committee. He also said that with the closure of the East Arm boat ramp to the public, a new boat ramp was proposed at Hudson Creek. He thought that the committee should discuss both proposals at the next meeting.

### **Request for PhD support**

Ms Samantha Fox had written to the committee asking if she could use the DHAC as a case study for her PhD. This would involve Ms Fox interviewing committee members and the committee undertaking to review some of her work. The committee agreed to support Ms Fox's endeavour, but wanted further details about her criteria for a "successful" coastal management program.

#### **ACTIONS:**

1. Printing of 30 copies of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management to go ahead.
2. Project Coordinator to provide background information on the proposed Glyde Point development and Hudson Creek boat ramp for next meeting.
3. Project Coordinator to write a letter of support to Ms Fox and ask for more information about her criteria for evaluating the success of coastal integrated management programs.

### **16. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held Monday 7 March 2005.