



Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

MINUTES FOR MEETING 8

4 April 2005

9.00am – 12.00pm

Ormiston Room, Parliament House, Darwin

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Present:

Name	Representing
Mr John Bailey	Independent chairperson
Mr Alastair Black	Darwin Port Corporation
Mr Brendan Dowd	Local government interests
Mr Wolf Loenneker	Ministerial Advisor
Ms Adele Pedder	Environment Centre of the NT
Mr Peter Robertson	Environment Centre of the NT (as observer)
Ms Liza Schenkel	Landcare
Ms Kira Schlusser	Project Coordinator, Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management
Dr Simon Townsend	Ecosystem Monitoring Group (EMG)

Apologies:

Name	Representing
Ms Annie Andrews	Business and industry
Mr Chris Makepeace	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
Ms Donna Odegaard	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
Ms Christine Truarn	Horticultural/agricultural interests
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). He said that Mr John Harrison from the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT (AFANT) had resigned from his position and Mr Chris Makepeace had been nominated by AFANT as their new representative. Mr Makepeace, however, was unable to attend this meeting and had sent his apologies.

ACTION

The Project Coordinator will arrange for a letter to be sent to Mr Harrison thanking him for his contribution to the committee.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

2. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Mr Dowd

Seconded: Mr Black

3. ACTION SHEET AND STATUS REPORT

Members noted the action sheet and the status report of projects and work program.

Mr Dowd asked that the request for information about the storm water project from the Office of Environment and Heritage be followed up.

ACTION

The Project Coordinator will continue to follow up the storm water strategy actions from Meeting 7's action sheet.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence noted.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Committee members noted the financial statement. Mr Dowd clarified his request for further information and said that the following would be useful for interpreting the financial report:

- Expected project completion dates
- Information on reallocation of funds
- A couple of sentences on each bottom line item
- An overall comment

ACTION

Next financial statement will include the above points.

6. ECOSYSTEM MONITORING GROUP (EMG)

The chairperson of the EMG, Dr Simon Townsend related the results of the recently held risk assessment workshop. He said that the group had identified two broad activities that were threatening the Darwin Harbour region:

- Aquatic threats, that is, a broad water pollution issue; and
- habitat loss and degradation

The workshop showed that the region doesn't have any single paramount environmental issue, but rather a number which are roughly equally ranked. He said that Mr Jeff Morgan is writing up the report from the workshop and a draft will be distributed to the working groups and DHAC members next week. He said that there will also be an EMG meeting on 15 April to discuss the report and finalise arrangements for the project.

Mr Morgan would also be finishing his work on 20 April and any funds unspent would be used to tidy up the report and provide an independent review. He said that project would be completed by the beginning of next financial year and a presentation will be made to the committee.

7. INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP (IWG)

Mr Bailey said that the IWG would hold their first meeting on 12 April and that the working group members were looking forward to the opportunity of working together.

8. ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH GROUP (ERG)

Mr Bailey reported that he and Ms Schlusser had met with Dr Frank Tirendi and Dr Mark Meekan from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) to discuss their interest in finding funding for their work. He had said that any proposals for funding would need to be based on actions outlined in the plan of management for the region and endorsed by the Ecosystem Research Group prior to being submitted to the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee. The committee would then be in a position to encourage funding submissions be put to Government or to write letters of support.

9. GLYDE POINT PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

Mr Neville Jones, Executive Director, Land Development, Dept of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, presented a briefing on the proposed Glyde Point development. Mr Jones agreed to provide a set of reports on the proposed development to the committee for their reference. In order for Mr Jones to address a number of questions arising from his presentation, Ms Pedder offered to draft some questions, which would be sent via the project coordinator.

Mr Wolf Loenneker, ministerial advisor to Dr Chris Burns MLA, Minister for Lands and Planning, attended the meeting from 10.30am until 11.30am. Committee members asked Mr Loenneker whether it was possible to receive information about any alternative sites, such as the Holtze area further inland, which had been considered for the proposed development and the reasons for their exclusion.

ACTIONS

1. The project coordinator will follow up copies of the reports on Glyde Point.
2. Ms Pedder will provide questions about Glyde Point and Ms Schlusser will draft a letter to Mr Jones.
3. The project coordinator will draft a letter to the Minister requesting information about alternative site investigations, and the reasons for their exclusion, a draft of which will be circulated to members before being sent.
4. Ms Pedder will email the Glyde Point EIS information to the project coordinator for distribution to members.

10. CHANGES TO THE *PLANNING ACT*

Members asked Mr Loenneker when the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee would be formally established under the *Planning Act* and how the plan of management would be recognised. Mr Loenneker said that DIPE is working through the process of preparing regulations and then Government needs to determine when it will make the amendments to the Act. He thought it would possibly occur mid-year and this would probably include the establishment of the committee by statute. The Department would consult generally before proceeding with any changes and DHAC would be included in the consultation process.

Mr Loenneker said the Minister wanted to be kept up to date on the progress of the stormwater strategy project and the cultural survey project.

ACTION

The project coordinator will organise regular updates to Minister Burns on the progress of the storm water strategy and the cultural surveys project.

11. CULTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY PRESENTATION

Mr Steve Sutton, Director, Heritage Conservation, Office of Environment and Heritage, sent his apologies.

12. HUDSON CREEK BOAT RAMP PROPOSAL

Members asked for more information about the proposal.

ACTION

Project coordinator will chase up more information about the proposed boat ramp site and will distribute the information in time for the next meeting.

13. COMMUNICATION WITH DIPE

Committee members agreed that the project coordinator prepare an options/discussion paper to improve communication between the committee and government departments. Mr Dowd suggested that ancillary organisations, such as TOPROC, could also be involved in assisting DHAC to communicate its message of the need to be consulted and involved to government agencies.

ACTION

Project coordinator will prepare a draft and circulate it before next meeting.

14. PROPOSED HELIUM PLANT

Committee members agreed that the proposed helium plant would be a useful development within the region, but there was still a need to monitor incremental expansion in the area, and in this case the clearing of dry rainforest.

ACTION

The project coordinator will organise a briefing from BOC on the proposed helium plant, with a focus on the environmental aspects of the project and the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal.

15. ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

Members discussed the format of the annual status report to be presented to the Minister for Lands and Planning, due out shortly after the end of the financial year. The project coordinator would choose a framework and circulate it to members. If any member had any comments about the format they could be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr Bailey informed Mr Loenneker that the report would be made public at the same time that the committee presented the report to the Minister.

Members also looked at the list of actions from the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management where DHAC had been nominated to take the leading role. Members agreed that as part of the evaluation of the implementation of the plan of management the report should include the need for DHAC to clarify and focus on key outcomes and the actions listed as DHAC's responsibility were outside the scope of the committee to implement.

Members also agreed that a review of the timelines listed in the plan of management was required and that there was a need to look at now to deal with issues that were not funded.

Mr Dowd suggested that the committee conduct an open discussion and self evaluation on the progress and issues related to the committee at its next meeting.

ACTIONS

1. The project coordinator will select a reporting format for the annual status report and circulate it to members prior to the next meeting. Members will raise any issues with the format at the next meeting.
2. The committee will raise the issues of actions that are outside the scope of the committee to implement, actions that have not received funding and will review timelines set out in the plan of management in the status report to the Minister.
3. Committee members would conduct a self evaluation dialogue at the next committee meeting.

16. BUSINESS ARISING

16.1. SITES FOR LANDFILL

Mr Dowd informed committee members that the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT) had written to the Minister for the Environment, Marion Scrymgour MLA, outlining its members' concerns about the need for certainty regarding landfill sites. Mr Dowd said that a copy of the letter would be forwarded to DHAC.

16.2. ECHIDNAS AT PROPOSED LEE POINT ROAD DEVELOPMENT SITE

Mr Bailey said that he had received an email from an organisation called Wildcare, which claimed that echidnas in the area would be affected by the proposed housing development.

The committee agreed that letters be sent to:

1. Wildcare asking them to outline the evidence for their claims; and
2. Wildlife Management Branch in DIPE stating that DHAC had received an email from Wildcare and asking them whether DIPE had conducted a survey of the area for echidnas.

ACTION

The project coordinator will write letters to Wildcare and DIPE as outlined.

16.3. DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)

Mr Dowd said that Darwin City Council had prepared an environmental management plan and he would present a briefing at the next meeting.

ACTION

Mr Dowd will present a briefing on the Darwin City Council's Environmental Management Plan at the next meeting.

17. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday 9 May 2005.