



Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

MINUTES FOR MEETING 10

6 June 2005

9.00am – 12.00pm

Meeting Room 1, Darwin City Council Building, Harry Chan Ave, Darwin

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Present:

Name	Representing
Ms Annie Andrews	Business and industry
Mr John Bailey	Independent chairperson
Mr Brendan Dowd	Local government interests
Mr Chris Makepeace	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
Ms Donna Odegaard	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
Ms Adele Pedder	Environment Centre of the NT
Ms Liza Schenkel	Landcare
Ms Kira Schlusser	Project Coordinator, Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management
Dr Simon Townsend	Chair, Ecosystem Monitoring Group
Ms Christine Truarn	Horticultural/agricultural interests
Mr Chris Young	Shipping and transport industry

Apologies:

Name	Representing
Professor Bob Wasson	Charles Darwin University
Mr Alastair Black	Darwin Port Corporation

Mr Bailey welcomed the members of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC).

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

2. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Ms Andrews

Seconded: Mr Young

3. ACTION SHEET AND STATUS REPORT

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

The project coordinator confirmed that Glenn Schipp from DBIRD had contacted the proponents for an electronic copy of their barramundi aquaculture proposal. According to Glenn Schipp, as a result of the initial consultation process the proponents were making some changes to the proposal and would forward a copy when it was completed.

ACTION

The project coordinator will follow up a copy of an electronic version of the barramundi aquaculture proposal from Glenn Schipp.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence noted.

Mr Bailey drew the members' attention to a letter from DIPE regarding the likely demise of the echidnas that currently live in the proposed new Lyons housing development area.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Members noted the financial statement and agreed to pay \$20,000 to Charles Darwin University from its operating expenses towards the post doctoral research work on developing the conceptual model to offset the shortfall in funding for 2005-06.

ACTION

The project coordinator will organise a transfer of \$20,000 to Charles Darwin University in time for the end of the financial year.

6. PROJECT FUNDING FOR 2005-06

Committee members referred to Attachment 5, which provided a table of calculations for an equitable reduction in funding for all funded projects for 2005-06 of around 9% to make up for the shortfall of around \$30K. The allocated funding for each project would be:

1. Developing a conceptual model (ERG)	\$82,500
2. Strategies for involving indigenous people (IWG)	\$73,000
3. Implementing the communication plan	\$72,500
4. Identifying significant habitats	\$92,000
Total	\$321,000

7. ECOSYSTEM MONITORING GROUP (EMG)

Dr Townsend referred to the attachment 6 of the agenda papers: the draft report *Integrated Environmental Monitoring Program for Darwin Harbour and its Catchment*.

He said that the environmental consulting firm, HLA Environsciences, had been engaged for ten weeks to clarify and work on the many tables in the report. The tables had been prepared by those involved in monitoring in the region with many people participating, hence the tables needed to be edited to make them consistent with one another. The consultants would also review

the content of the report and prepare more flow diagrams. The flow diagrams already contained in the report had received positive comment and provided a clear presentation of information. Dr Townsend said when the tables were completed they would be distributed to members via email.

Dr Townsend also said that while the EMG had not received funding for next financial year, members of the group were keen to review their own monitoring programs, however, there would be no resources to integrate and report on the findings collectively.

He said that the EMG would also be working with the Indigenous Working Group during 2005-06.

8. ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH GROUP (ERG)

In Professor Wasson's absence, Mr Bailey reported that the project coordinator was organising a meeting to discuss a monitoring scheme for the harbour, as requested by Professor Wasson at the last meeting.

Mr Bailey said that he had recently been in contact with Professor Valentine from Power Water regarding research in Darwin Harbour and suggested that he be invited to give a presentation on his work to the committee.

ACTION

The project coordinator will organise a briefing by Professor Valentine.

9. INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP (IWG)

Ms Odegaard said that due to unfortunate circumstances the majority of Larrakia representatives had not received notification of the meeting held on 24 May and sickness and transportation problems had prevented Belyuen representatives from attending. She said that the Larrakia Nation representatives had been disappointed about missing the meeting, however, it had been rescheduled and the transport and communication issues had been resolved.

Ms Odegaard said the Larrakia (land and sea) Ranger Program had been expanded, however, the IWG was an appropriate forum for different groups from the one area to meet and reach consensus on a ranger program and to develop collaboration and partnerships in general.

10. STORM WATER STRATEGY PRESENTATION

Mr Michael Lawton, Director Waste and Pollution Management, spoke to the committee at 9.30am. He provided mock-ups of codes of practice for the construction industry and interest groups, such as animal shelters and auto dismantlers. He also said information would be provided for the three tiers of government.

Mr Lawton said that the strategy could not go to public consultation during a pre-election period and so it was not likely to be completed by 30 June. He assured the committee, however, that funding was available to complete the strategy.

He raised the matter of the difficulty of coordinating the implementation of the stormwater strategy in the NT, given that there was no catchment authority with powers to ensure compliance and undertake the work. In the NT successful implementation would require coordination across agencies.

Mr Lawton agreed to provide text for the next Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee newsletter with an update on the development of the storm water strategy.

Mr Bailey thanked Mr Lawton for briefing the members of the committee.

ACTION

The project coordinator will follow up on OEH providing a storm water strategy article for the newsletter.

11. HELIUM PLANT BRIEFING

Mr Paul Dutton, from BOC, presented a briefing at 10am on the proposed helium plant, which is to be located on land leased by ConocoPhillips. He answered questions from committee members and storage and transport of the helium. Mr Bailey thanked Mr Dutton and his team for their time.

12. PLANNING WORKSHOP

Due to time constraints, discussion of this item was deferred until the next meeting.

13. HUDSON CREEK BOAT RAMP PROPOSAL

Mr Neville Jones, Executive Director Land Development in DIPE, reported that a consultant had completed a report on options for locating a boat ramp at Hudson Creek and had provided options for a preferred site. Four options had been presented with indicative costings and the next task was to assess each option in the light of the hydrodynamic model of that area. Mr Jones said that at this stage the preferred location of the ramp would be further upstream from the current ramp, which would no longer be open to the public once the new ramp was completed, with a ramp around 95 metres long. He said that he expected the ramp to be built in the 2006-07 financial year. Apart from some clearing of mangroves for the boat ramp, Mr Jones said that the area was zoned DV (development) and he expected a total of around 27 ha of mangroves would be cleared eventually to make way for plans to develop the area to include a car park and some commercial operations related to activities around the boat ramp.

Mr Jones also provided an update on the Glyde Point development proposal saying that a request for tender would be put out in the next couple of weeks. Any tenders would then be compiled into an Environmental Impact Assessment brief, which would be expected to go out into the public domain around the end of the year.

Mr Jones agreed to give a presentation on the 'East Arm Control Plan'. Mr Bailey thanked Mr Jones for attending the meeting.

ACTION

The project coordinator will liaise with Mr Jones to organise a presentation on the East Arm Control Plan.

14. GLYDE POINT PROPOSAL

Members agreed to discuss the item at the next meeting. Ms Pedder volunteered to continue working on a discussion paper with the project coordinator.

ACTION

Ms Pedder and Ms Schlusser will prepare a discussion paper on Glyde Point.

BUSINESS ARISING

15. PRESENTATION ON INRM PLAN

Dr Robyn Delaney briefed the committee on the latest information about the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and funding arrangements currently being developed. She said that the INRM Plan had been accredited by the Australian Government on 5 May 2005 and an accompanying *Investment Strategy*, which would provide information on the priorities for funding in the plan, was being finalised.

Calls for funding applications would occur in July 2005 and proposals would be assessed in early August. Dr Delaney said that an open information session would be held on 17 June.

Mr Bailey thanked Dr Delaney for making time to provide information to the committee.

16. SAND MINING APPLICATIONS

Committee members agreed to send a letter objecting to the sand mining applications for sand bars near Cullen Bay and East Arm. The draft letter

would be changed to reflect the stronger language used in the agenda papers.

ACTION

The project coordinator will organise a letter to be sent to the Business, Industry and Development section in the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD) by 13 July 2005.

17. PLANNING FOR 4 JULY MEETING

The Minister for Lands and Planning was expected to attend part of the next DHAC meeting scheduled for 4 July and members agreed that a couple of presentations by the chairs of the ERG and EMG would be appropriate. However, the presentations will depend on the timing of the post election process and whether the Minister for Lands and Planning would be available post-election.

ACTION

The project coordinator will contact the Minister's office and make necessary arrangements according to the situation at hand closer to the 4 July.

18. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday 4 July 2005.