



# Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

## MINUTES FOR MEETING 14

6 February 2006

9.00am – 12.00pm

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

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

#### Present:

##### Name

Mr John Bailey

Mr Alastair Black

Mr Brendan Dowd

Ms Donna Odegaard

Ms Liza Schenkel

##### Representing

Independent chairperson

Darwin Port Corporation

Local government interests

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Greening Australia

Ms Kira Schlusser

Project Co-ordinator, Darwin Harbour Regional  
Plan of Management

Simon Townsend

Chair, Ecosystem Monitoring Group

Mr Chris Young

Shipping and transport industry

#### Apologies:

##### Name

Mr Chris Makepeace

Ms Adele Pedder

Professor Bob Wasson

##### Representing

Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT

Environment Centre NT

Charles Darwin University, Chair Ecosystem  
Research Group

### *PREVIOUS BUSINESS*

### 2. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr Dowd moved that the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted.

Seconded by Mr Young.

### 3. ACTION SHEET FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Dowd informed the committee that testing of groundwater as outlined under Item 3 was due to commence in 2-3 week's time.

Members asked whether an Honours proposal had been submitted. The Project Coordinator said that she would contact Professor Wasson to find out the status of the project. Before the stipend could be made available funding for research costs needed to be raised and the ERG had met to discuss how to go about seeking funds.

Item 14.1: A letter of reply regarding potential pests arriving on illegal fishing boats had been received on 3 March 2006 and could be viewed in the incoming correspondence file.

**ACTION**

The Project Coordinator will follow up on the progress the Honours proposal.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Members noted the correspondence. Mr Bailey said that he had phoned Mr Dean in reply to his email about the implementation of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management. He had told Mr Dean a copy of the status report would be delivered once it had been officially handed to the Minister for Natural Resources, the Environment and Heritage.

**5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Members noted the financial report. The Project Coordinator said that she needed to clarify an expenditure item for copying of videos and report back to the committee.

**ACTION**

The Project Coordinator will follow up on the expenditure item: copying of videos.

**6. ECOSYSTEM MONITORING GROUP**

Dr Townsend said that he was in the process of organising a meeting of EMG members to discuss integration of monitoring in Darwin Harbour. The meeting was scheduled for 24 March 2006.

He said that he had also been involved in a project that could provide funding under the Coastal Catchment Initiative, a federally funded program focusing on water quality. Darwin Harbour had been nominated as a 'hotspot' which would make it eligible for funding for projects with a water quality focus.

Dr Townsend said that representatives from the Coastal Catchment Initiative would be visiting Darwin on 13 and 14 February and that they wanted to discuss any issues of concern about the catchment that committee members thought might be relevant. Dr Townsend would also organise a specific meeting on 14 March 2006 between Donna Odegaard and the Australian Government representatives to discuss indigenous issues.

**7. ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH GROUP**

Professor Wasson was unavailable to report on the ERG for this meeting.

## **8. INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP**

The chair tabled the cultural surveys final report, which had been forwarded with a letter from Heritage Services in NRETA. Members requested that the report be made available on the committee's website.

The Project Coordinator provided an update of the tender process for the IWG project. She said that the selection panel had reached a decision, which would be made public within a few weeks. The process had taken longer than expected due to difficulty in finding suitable selection panel members, the need for further clarification from applicants, and the Christmas break. She said that the Department of Corporate and Information Services would be sending out letters of notification.

On another matter, Ms Odegaard said that she would ask the Governing Committee of Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation to write to DHAC to confirm that she would continue to represent the Nation at DHAC meetings.

### **ACTION**

1. The Project Coordinator will email the cultural surveys final report to members and put a copy on the DHAC website.
2. Ms Odegaard will ask the Governing Committee of Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation to write a letter stating that she would continue to represent the Nation on DHAC.

## **9. NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR 2006-07**

Mr Bailey provided an update of his meeting with Minister Scrymgour. He said that he had raised the issue of funding for 2006-07. Mr Bailey said that DHAC had not been able to put in a funding submission through the Water Monitoring Branch of NRETA for 'new initiatives', as had previously been the case, but neither had any sections of NRETA. Minister Scrymgour said that in February/March the Government would be going through a planning day with Government Departments and that it may be possible funds would be available after that time.

Mr Bailey said he had suggested to the Minister that he preferred a model of automatic recurrent funding to implement the Plan of Management rather than being required to apply for new funds each year.

Mr Dowd suggested that the committee work out a projection of the required expenditure for the next few years, which should be seen as an 'embedded amount' in Treasury's forward planning.

**ACTION**

Committee members will work out a projection of the required expenditure for the next few years to provide to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts.

**10. STORMWATER STRATEGY**

Mr Bailey said that he had indicated to the Stormwater Strategy Officer and the Media and Communications Unit in NRETA he was happy for DHAC to endorse the release of the Stormwater Strategy for public consultation. He had said that the committee could not endorse the strategy itself since DHAC had not been involved in its development, but that he could say he was pleased that the strategy had been released and would encourage the public to provide comment.

The strategy was expected to be released in March 2006.

**11. STATUS REPORT**

The Project Coordinator said that the Status Report would be presented to the Minister within the next one or two weeks. Arrangements for media coverage had been organised.

Mr Dowd moved that that the efforts of the Project Coordinator, Kira Schlusser, in preparing the report be acknowledged. Seconded by Liza Schenkel.

**12. SEMINAR SERIES**

Tanya Hancock from the Media and Communications Unit gave a presentation on the communication strategy she had developed and which had replaced the previous strategy. She said that it was important to build a brand for the committee so that people would automatically recognise what the DHAC and the Plan of Management stood for.

She said that promotion of the status report and seminar series had been organised. She had submitted information to the ABC's *Country Hour* in the hope that the program would cover each night's topic.

Ms Hancock had also been liaising with Jeremy Freeman regarding fact sheets on the ecosystems of the region.

She asked the committee to endorse the tag line *Our Harbour, Our Life, Our Future*, which would be used on all future correspondence and other products generated by DHAC.

Committee members agreed to endorse the tag line.

Mr Bailey thanked Ms Hancock for taking the time to brief the committee.

The Project Coordinator said that she would email a roster sheet to each member so they could indicate which nights they could attend. She said that promoting the event was well under way and the program would be sent out to everyone on DHAC's mailing list and would also be advertised in the paper each weekend.

### **13. DHAC MARCH WORKSHOP**

Mr Bailey said that given his contract expired on 31 March 2006, the DHAC position of chair was being advertised, and since he did not intend applying for the position, he thought it best to postpone the workshop until the position of chair had been resolved.

Mr Bailey said that he would like to suggest that:

- DHAC invite a Ministerial advisor to each meeting. This would help to expedite issues that needed resolving and facilitate understanding between DHAC and the Minister's office.
- DHAC invite relevant public servants to meetings for relevant topics.

### ***BUSINESS ARISING***

#### **14. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Bailey said that this meeting was his last with the committee. He thanked the members for their support and work during the time he had held the position of chair. He said that he had found the development of the plan the highlight of his term, and the implementation of the plan had been a lot harder.

Committee members thanked Mr Bailey for his leadership, dedication and spirit.

Ms Odegaard thanked Mr Bailey on behalf of the indigenous community

#### **15. NEXT MEETING**

Monday 8 May 2006.