



Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

MINUTES FOR MEETING 15

8 May 2006

9.00am – 12.00pm

Meeting Room 1, Darwin City Council Building, Harry Chan Ave, 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 Chris Makepeace	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
Ms Lesley Alford	Greening Australia
Ms Adele Pedder	Environment Centre NT
Prof Bob Wasson	Charles Darwin University, Chair Ecosystem Research Group
Ms Kira Schlusser	Project Co-ordinator, Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management
Dr Simon Townsend	Chair Ecosystem Monitoring Group
Ms Merrilyn Barnes	EPA Program
Ms Lyn Allen	Executive Director Environment and Heritage

Apologies:

Name	Representing
Greg Bicknell	NTG

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

2. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

3. ACTION SHEET FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A number of members had questions in regards to item 9 from the previous minutes.

It was determine that no specific project funding will be available to DHAC in the 06/07 financial year. This determination is across DNRETA where no new projects will be funded.

ACTION

Letter to be sent to the Minister in regards to lack of specific project funding.

Members expressed deep dissatisfaction with the lack of project funding. Members said that DHAC originally established as a planning committee with

an environmental focus. DHAC has now moved more towards an environmental rather than planning focus. It is important to involve the Minister for Planning and Lands in any discussions.

ACTION

Find letter re: Planning Responsibilities.

ACTION

DHAC to invite Minister to meeting or speak to Minister in regards to Committee role.

ACTION

Hold a special meeting on the 29 May 2006 to discuss future role of DHAC.

Prof Wasson will provide a written response for consideration at the special meeting as he is unable to attend.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted the correspondence.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Members noted the financial report.

Chair requested that the Project Coordinator make comments on each line of financial report in the future.

6. WORK PROGRAM

6.1 Funding for DHAC actions

Lyn Allen, Executive Director of Environment and Heritage, EPA Program, DNRETA addressed DHAC. The Chair provided an overview of the Committees concerns in the following areas:

- Uncertainty about how the Committee should operate;
- Lack of statutory basis for DHAC;
- Concern over no dedicated project funding; and
- No official involvement in the Planning process.

Lyn Allen spoke about the potential opportunities for implementing Plan of Management action's under the Coastal Catchments Initiative (CCI). The NTG is seeking funding through the CCI for the next 3 years and the one of the major outcomes will be a water quality management plan for the Darwin Harbour. Lyn indicated that input will be sought from DHAC and members will be invited to sit on the Water Quality Management Plan Steering Committee. Lyn indicated an opportunity for DHAC's closer involvement / input under the Environmental Assessment Act. She indicated that she would look at options of incorporating the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management (DHRPoM) into relevant EIS and PER guidelines. This would ensure that proponents for developments within the Darwin Harbour Catchment are required to address the goals and objectives of the DHRPoM.

DHAC asked Lyn about statutory appointment under new legislation for the EPA program. Lyn indicated that it is too early in process to make any commitments.

Lyn indicated that NT Government may not be keen on creating new statutory authorities such as a catchment management group.

7. ECOSYSTEM MONITORING GROUP

Simon brought to DHAC's attention the CCI funding which will fund the production of a water quality management plan for Darwin Harbour and Water Sensitive Urban Design project. Simon will notify DHAC if, and when the funding goes ahead.

Information on Significant habitats in the Darwin Harbour Catchment has been collated and reported on.

Currently seeking to collate water quality data for Darwin Harbour collected under the Integrated monitoring program.

8. ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH GROUP

Bob Wasson reported on the groups current research which is focused on quantity of sediments and nutrients entering the Darwin Harbour. The group is analysing data collected over a number of years.

9. INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP

DHAC agreed to spend \$2,000 on production of a poster on whales and dolphins.

ACTION

Ask Donna Jackson to provide invoice for poster

10 STORMWATER STRATEGY SUBMISSION

It was decided to use Brendan's submission as a basis for comments to the Stormwater Strategy. A copy of DHAC's comments are to be sent to the Ministers office. Include in comments that Brendan Dowd was on the Steering Committee as a DHAC member. The Strategy should have maps and formal definition of the Harbour.

ACTION

Provide submission on the Stormwater Strategy to the Dept and Minister.

11. DHAC WORKSHOP

- The following needs to be discussed at the DHAC workshop on the 29th May 2006:
- Membership
- Invite more government representatives along
- Need structure to the workshop
- Bob to prepare a paper and Simon to submit dot points as they are unable to attend.

- Have an agenda and proposed timeline.

BUSINESS ARISING

12. OTHER BUSINESS

World Environment Day

It was agreed that DHAC would attend WED and John would present at the seminar series

Rivers Symposium

It was resolved that 3 members from DHAC would attend the Rivers Symposium in Brisbane in September. The 3 members will be the Chair, the Project Coordinator and a community member.

Incinerator

Adele to follow up and report back to the committee

13. NEXT MEETING

Special meeting Monday 29 May 06