



Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

MINUTES FOR MEETING 16

3rd October 2006

1pm – 4.30pm

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

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Present:

Name

John Bailey
Brendan Dowd
Chris Makepeace
Doulat Alibhai
Lesley Alford
Adele Pedder
Bob Wasson

David Ritchie
Lyn Allen
Ms Merrilyn Barnes

Representing

Independent Chairperson
Local Government interests
Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
Greening Australia – Water for Life
Greening Australia
Environment Centre NT
Charles Darwin University, Chair Ecosystem
Research Group
Chief Executive DNRETA
Executive Director Environment and Heritage
EPA Program – Project Coordinator

Apologies:

Name

Duncan Dean
Chris Young
Alastair Black

Representing

Community Representative
NT Chamber of Commerce
Darwin Port Commercial Interests

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

2. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted.

Moved: C. Makepeace

Agreed B Dowd.

3. ACTION SHEET FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Action sheet noted.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming and outgoing correspondence files were tabled. List of correspondence noted.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Project Coordinator reported that the financial report will not be tabled at this meeting due to expecting decisions on roll-over funding from Treasury within the next two weeks. David Ritchie advised that it would be prudent to assume roll over's would not be approved. David Ritchie and Lyn Allen

advised there may be a further delay before the results of rollovers applications are known.

In light of this information, it was agreed that the Project Officer would draft make a budget based on known 06-07 funding.

A decision about the IWG contact cannot be made until the rollover is approved.

ACTION 1

Merrilyn with the assistance of Lyn Allen to develop a draft budget on current available funds for consideration by DHAC.

6. FUTURE OF DHAC

John Bailey updated the Committee about his efforts to meet with the Chief Minister as directed by the Committee at the special meeting on the 29th May. While John has not met with the Chief Minister, he has met with Minister Scrymgeour, the Chief Minister's advisors, David Ritchie and Lyn Allen.

David Ritchie was invited to address DHAC in regards to the issues that he has discussed with the Minister, Lyn Allen and John Bailey.

- David reassured the Committee that it still has support from Government;
- There is a realization that the DHAC model is the model that Government wishes to use for environmental and complex land use issues in the future.
- David understands that DHAC currently has no legislative process; however the Government is waiting to see how DHAC will bring the broader constituency along with them.
- The current cabinet submission still stands including "approving the establishment of a DHAC committee as a statutory committee under the Planning Act".
- NRETA will be producing a further cabinet submission soon, however he believes that there will be some contested ground from other Departments,
- Operational issues between DHAC and NRETA will be easily resolved and he invited DHAC to work closer with the Department.
- David committed to attend DHAC meetings more frequently to ensure operations are going smoothly.

Lyn Allen provided the following in regards to future support to DHAC and relationship with the Department.

1. Lyn Allen will attend DHAC meetings.
2. Lyn will provide a rolling list of all assessments dealt with by the EPA Program as they relate to the Darwin Harbour.
3. The Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management will be referred to in environmental assessment guidelines for proposed

developments that affect Darwin Harbour. The comments by the applicant will in turn be sent to DHAC.

4. Need a greater understanding of the priorities of the Committee to reflect in work plans and budget.
5. Project officer's role is not to review development applications. It is inappropriate for a government employee to comment on Government processes. The Project Officer role is to collate DHAC's comments only.

7. CCI PROJECT

Lyn Allen presented the proposed Darwin Harbour Water Quality Protection Plan to DHAC. She provided some background information in regards to negotiations with the Commonwealth. Two projects will be funded under this program including the Water Quality Protection Plan of which DNRETA will be the lead agency and the Water Sensitive Urban Design project which DPI will be the lead agency.

A briefing paper was tabled for all members that outlined the following:

- What will the Plan look like?
- Potential DHAC contributions to the project;
- The Steering Committee
- Timetable for development of the Plan
- Appendix addressing the relevance of the project to the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management.

The Project will be run for 3 years or more. Funding is \$1,024,000 with in-kind and cash contributions from the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government and partners. There will be a connection with the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan.

DHAC's Role in the Project

1. The project requires broad community engagement, for example, consultation on beneficial uses for the Harbour. It is proposed that DHAC take a leading role in the community consultation.
2. Whilst much of the project will be technical, e.g. catchment modelling, it is proposed that DHAC and DHAC working groups become involved in workshops etc where targeted stakeholder engagement is required.
3. Representation on the Project Steering Committee which will oversee and manage the project.

The Committee asked if funding will be available for these extra activities. It was clarified by Lyn Allen that whilst no funds will go directly to DHAC, funding will be available for public engagement activities.

A recruitment action is currently underway to employ a dedicated officer to the project.

Action 2

NRETA to write to the Chair of DHAC to nominate a member to the Steering Committee

Resolution

1. The Committee all agreed that they would accept the proposed role in the Water Quality Protection Plan and it was agreed by all that the Plan will achieve numerous outcomes for the DHRPoM.
2. It was resolved by the Committee that John Bailey would be the DHAC representative on the Water Quality Protection Plan Steering Committee.

8 ERG REPORT

Bob Wasson provided a brief on the interim report "Providing a scientific basis to managing the regions development".

Bob tabled the contents page and executive summary for the report.

The model in the report was developed for the 'extreme case' of a population of 1 Million people.

Lyn Allen asked if a model could be run for a population of 200,000 people as this figure would be more realistic for the purposes of the Water Quality Protection Plan as well as discussions with higher levels of government. Bob asked "where it is anticipated that this number of people would be located?" David Ritchie replied that it is proposed that they would be situated in the proposed township of Weddell.

Action 3

Bob Wasson to run a model using a population number of 200,000.

The question of "what next for the report?" was asked. Bob indicated that since there was no further funding any recommendations for future studies will not be progressed.

Action 4

Bob to decide on distribution of the report. Merrilyn to assist.

Lesley Alford provided information to the Committee on the community water monitoring project that will be underway very soon under Greening Australia's Water for Life Project. She indicated that the data collected will be provided to the Aquatic Health Group and that they are working together in the areas of QA.

9. REPORT ON RIVERS SYMPOSIUM

John Bailey gave a brief report in regards to his and Duncan's attendance to the Rivers Symposium. It is anticipated that Duncan may be able to provide a more comprehensive report next meeting.

10. DHRPoM – PROGRAM FOR REVIEW

John indicated that it was important to finish the Status Report prior to the review of the Plan.

Action 5

Merrilyn and John to work on draft Status Report for consideration by DHAC.

The review program for the Plan should be developed based on the estimate that report would go to the Minister end of June 07.

Action 6

NRETA to work on the proposed timeline for the Review

Resolution

3. It was agreed that the current TOR be used for the interim. The TOR will be considered during the formal review process and may be revised.

Action 7

Merrilyn to send out the current document stating all members' status and work with the Chair to encourage non-attending members of the Committee to actively participate.

Action 8

A program of works is to be established for the next financial year. NRETA and Chair.

BUSINESS ARISING**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

Brendan Dowd indicated that he would be resigning his position from DHAC soon. He indicated that it was time for some fresh blood and Local Government Association NT (LGANT) would be providing another member.

Action 9

LGANT to formally nominate another member to DHAC in writing to the Minister.

12. NEXT MEETING

5th December 2006

9am – 12.30 Meeting room 1 DCC.

**DARWIN HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ACTION SHEET**

MEETING 16 Tuesday 3rd October 2006

Agenda Number	Agenda Item Title	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status
Item 5	Financial Report	Merrilyn with the assistance of Lyn Allen to develop a draft budget on current available funds for consideration by DHAC.	MB, NRETA	17 th Oct	
Item 7	CCI Project	NRETA to write to the Chair of DHAC to nominate a member to the Steering Committee	NRETA	31 st Oct	
Item 8	ERG Report	Bob Wasson to run a model using a population number of 200,000	BW, MB	Next meeting	
Item 8	ERG Report	Bob to decide on distribution of the report. Merrilyn to assist	BW, MB	Next meeting	
Item 10	DHRPoM – Program for Review	Merrilyn and John to work on draft Status Report for consideration by DHAC	MB, JB	Ongoing	
Item 10	DHRPoM – Program for Review	NRETA to work on the proposed timeline for the Review	MB, NRETA	Next meeting	
Item 10	DHRPoM – Program for Review	Merrilyn to send out the current document stating all members' status and work with the Chair to encourage non-attending members of the Committee to actively participate	MB, JB	Next meeting	
Item 10	DHRPoM – Program for Review	A program of works is to be established for the next financial year. NRETA and Chair	JB, NRETA	17 th Oct	
Item 11	Other Business	LGANT to formally nominate another member to DHAC in writing to the Minister	BD	Next meeting	