



Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

DRAFT MINUTES FOR MEETING 18

12th February 2007

9 am to 12 noon

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

1. Welcome And Apologies

Present:

Name

John Bailey
Chris Makepeace
Maree Domelow (proxy)
Duncan Dean
Peter Robertson (proxy)
Alastair Black
David McMaster (proxy)
Donna Jackson
Lyn Allen
Juanita Croft
Robyn Henderson

Representing

Independent Chairperson
Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
Greening Australia NT– Water for Life
Community Representative
Environment Centre NT
Darwin Port Commercial Interests
Darwin Port Commercial Interests
Larrakia Nation Governing Committee
Executive Director Environment and Heritage
Director Environmental Assessment & Policy
EPA Program – Project Coordinator

Apologies:

Name

Luccio Cercareli
Bob Wasson

Representing

Local Government Association NT
Charles Darwin University, Chair Ecosystem
Research Group
Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory

Chris Young

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

2. Acceptance Of Previous Minutes

The Committee agreed that the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted.

Moved: Chris Makepeace

Seconded: Duncan Dean

3. Action Sheet From Previous Meeting

Action sheet noted and brief update given.

4. Correspondence

Incoming correspondence file was tabled. List of correspondence noted. No outgoing correspondence since the last meeting.

Resolution

To accept the invitation from Environment Centre NT to participate in World Environment Day on 3rd of June 2007.

ACTION 1

Project Coordinator to draft letter of response to the Environment Centre NT expressing DHAC's interest in participating in World Environment Day.

5. Financial Report

Financial report as at 31 January 2007 tabled.

6. Water Quality Protection Plan

Lyn Allen provided an update of progress. She reported:

- Arrangements are continuing for DHAC to assist with consultation.
- DNRETA Marketing and Communications, EPA Program and the Chair will be working on the WQPP communication strategy and once finalised it will be provided to the Committee.
- Approximately \$75,000 funding has been allocated within the project over 3 years for public consultation.

John Bailey provided background regarding the funding arrangement from DEW and reported back from the Steering Committee. If required an out of session meeting may be arranged to update DHAC and keep the consultation in line with DHAC values.

7. Indigenous working group project

Juanita Croft and John Bailey provided background to the paper attached to the agenda.

The EPA Program advertised, and has recruited into, a six month project position specifically created to develop the Protocol. The successful applicant is Susan Pedersen and she will be commencing in the position on 19 February 2007. John Bailey suggested the formation of a working group comprising of Donna Jackson, Juanita Croft and he to oversee the project. Donna Jackson emphasised that although there are other indigenous groups using the catchment there should be a strong Larrakia influence.

Funding for the project runs until 30 June 2007.

8. Current Environmental Impact Assessment matters - status report

Current projects were provided in an attachment to the agenda.

Discussions were held on the best way for DHAC to contribute to development proposals. The Committee agreed to trial an approach whereby Development Application Proposals are discussed around the table during regular or out of session meetings. The Project Coordinator will write the

matters raised in the minutes, and from the minutes, draft a submission for signature by the Chair.

In relation to the Condensate facility, Juanita Croft indicated that DHAC could either engage with the consultants as earlier as possible in the environmental assessment process to give the opportunity for issues to be addressed in the EIS or DHAC could wait until the EIS has been released and comment during the public exhibition, or both.

Juanita Croft advised that when public submissions are made at the EIS stage the proponent must address the issues in the supplement; however, the earlier DHAC engages in the assessment process the better.

ACTION 2

Project Coordinator/Chair to write to the consultants who are responsible for the condensate facility proposal to request a briefing for DHAC on the project.

9. Report from Working Groups

- **EMG Julia Fortune on behalf of Simon Townsend**

The monitoring and sampling regime has a focus on marine and estuarine waters. Aquatic Health team in the EPA Program/NRETA are the only group doing extensive monitoring of the Harbour at this stage. The aquaculture industry does, however, undertake ambient monitoring as part of reporting to their discharge licences.

Monitoring work has been reviewed and refocused and the outcome has been the Water Quality Protection Plan (WQPP) Project which will feed into the EMG work. This project has funding and the monitoring effort in the next couple of years will be for the modelling in the WQPP project.

- **ERG Bob Wasson (Deferred until next meeting)**

10. Waste Discharge Licensing. for sewerage treatment facilities

Michael Lawton, Director Environmental Management, EPA Program and Paul Heaton, General Manager, Water Services, PowerWater, gave a presentation and answered questions on waste discharge licensing.

Some of the points either presented or raised include:

- The sewerage system was in place prior to the licensing regime and therefore the licenses have been applied to the existing operational regime. Changes to the operational regime will take time.
- Sewerage outfall licences expire after 5 years.
- Closure of the Larrakeyah outfall is a condition of the Waste Discharge Licence due to expire in 2011 and therefore this is the time by which the closure should be complete.
- Closure of Larrakeyah outfall will be difficult (but not insurmountable) due to the extensive civil works involved, the potential disruptions and the need to engage and coordinate numerous agencies.

- \$50 Million has been committed for 5 years (\$10 Million per year) for closure of Larrakeyah outfall and other improvements.
- CDU provides PowerWater with support with hydrodynamic modelling. Dispersion of outfalls is considered.
- Trade waste water treatment facilities will be developed. At this stage the biodiesel plant will be discharging to the sewerage system.
- PowerWater is supportive of water recycling schemes.

DHAC members raised concern about the loads at the Sewage Outfalls. Michael Lawton and Lyn Allen advised that although there is no cap on outfall in the Waste Discharge Licence the loads are of interest to the EPA Program.

Resolution

ACTION 3

Project Coordinator to draft a letter to Minister for the Chair's signature. The letter should highlight DHAC's recommendation that appropriate signage at Sewerage Outfalls include indigenous interpretation in pictorial form and that the signage be in place as soon as possible.

11. Glyde Point Development

Discussions were held on whether DHAC would make a submission to GHD on the Glyde Point Development as a group or as individuals through their organisations. AFANT and ECNT have already made submissions.

Resolution

Individual members should make submissions through their individual organisation regarding their concerns; however, DHAC will make a submission on common concerns as outlined in the action below.

ACTION 4

Project Coordinator to draft a letter to the Minister for the Chair's signature. The letter should state that DHAC has concerns with the process by which Glyde Point was chosen as the location for the industrial development and queries why other options have not been considered. A copy of the letter is to be emailed to members.

ACTION 5

Project Coordinator to contact GHD to advise that late submissions will be received.

12. Update on Government consideration regarding the status of DHAC and the Plan of Management.

No response has been received as yet. Lyn Allen reported on the reasons for the delay in responding.

13. Update on Plan of Management Status Report

John Bailey provided background on the progress of the Status Report and suggested to the Committee that the Status Report would form the basis of the Review of the Plan of Management to be undertaken in 2007. DHAC discussed how Committee members would contribute to the Status Report.

Resolution

A draft Status Report will be prepared and Committee Members will provide input once they have access to the draft. The draft will be distributed at least two weeks in advance of the April meeting, and will form the main topic for discussion at that meeting.

14. Creating Darwin's Future

Juanita Croft provided background to the agenda paper and suggested that it would be an ideal time for DHAC to provide input. Lyn Allen stated that as the document indicates that there should be a greater focus on the harbour it makes sense to interconnect the "Creating Darwin's Future" with the Plan of Management. The committee discussed the options and Duncan Dean suggested seeking funding for a consultant to prepare a submission. Peter Robertson suggested that a briefing by the Department of the Chief Minister should be the next step.

ACTION 6

Robyn Henderson to draft a letter to the Chief Minister's Department for John Bailey's signature as Chair of DHAC. The letter should request a briefing on the Creating Darwin's Future vision, particularly addressing the way the vision will be implemented.

15. DHAC Newsletter

Discussion was held on what content should be included in the next Newsletter.

Resolution

The Committee agreed that the NT News feature, which has recently been drafted would be appropriate content for the Newsletter.

Other Business

16. NEXT MEETING

Monday 16th April 2007

10am -1pm

Meeting room 1 DCC.

Future meeting dates.

Monday 16 April 2007 10am -1pm

Monday 4 June 2007 10am -1pm

Monday 6 August 2007 10am -1pm

**DARWIN HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ACTION SHEET**

MEETING 18 Monday 12th February 2007

Agenda Number	Agenda Item Title	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status
4	Correspondence	Project Coordinator to draft letter of response to the Environment Centre NT expressing DHAC's interest in participating in World Environment Day	Robyn Henderson	March	
9	Current Environmental Impact Assessment matters - status report	Project Coordinator/Chair to write to the consultants who are responsible for the condensate facility proposal to request a briefing for DHAC on the project.	Robyn Henderson and John Bailey	1 week	
10	Waste Discharge Licensing	Project Coordinator to draft a letter to Minister for the Chair's signature. The letter should highlight DHAC's recommendation that appropriate signage at Sewerage Outfalls include indigenous interpretation in pictorial form and that the signage be in place as soon as possible.	Robyn Henderson and John Bailey	March	
11	Glyde Point Development	Project Coordinator to draft a letter to the Minister for the Chair's signature. The letter should state that DHAC has concerns with the process by which Glyde Point was chosen as the location for the industrial development and queries why other options have not been considered. A copy of the letter is to be emailed	Robyn Henderson and John Bailey	1 week	

		to members.			
11	Glyde Point Development	Project Coordinator to contact GHD to advise that late submissions will be received.	Robyn Henderson and Juanita Croft	1 week	
14	Creating Darwin's Future	Robyn Henderson to draft a letter to the Chief Minister's Department for John Bailey's signature as Chair of DHAC. The letter should request a briefing on the Creating Darwin's Future vision, particularly addressing the way the vision will be implemented.	Robyn Henderson and John Bailey		