



Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

MINUTES FOR MEETING 19

16th April 2007

10 am to 1.15 pm

Boardroom, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory,
Conacher St, Bullocky Point NT

1. Welcome And Apologies

Present:

Name	Representing
John Bailey	Independent Chairperson
Chris Makepeace	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
Maree Domelow	Greening Australia NT– Water for Life
Duncan Dean	Community Representative
Peter Robertson	Environment Centre NT
Donna Jackson	Larrakia Nation Governing Committee
Luccio Cercareli	Local Government Association NT
Bob Wasson	Charles Darwin University, Chair Ecosystem Research Group
Lyn Allen	Executive Director Environment and Heritage
Juanita Croft	Director Environmental Assessment & Policy
Robyn Henderson	EPA Program – Project Coordinator, Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management
Susan Pedersen	EPA Program – Project Officer IWG
George Maly	EPA Program –Project Officer WQPP
Stuart Young	EPA Program

Apologies:

Nil

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

2. Acceptance Of Previous Minutes

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

Moved: Chris Makepeace

Seconded: Maree Domelow

3. Action Sheet From Previous Meeting

Action sheet noted and brief update given. All actions from the last meeting had been attended to except the letter to the consultants for the Condensate facility, which was addressed via telephone conversations.

4. Water Quality Protection Plan

George Maly provided information about the upcoming consultation process which will seek community input to the review of the Beneficial Use Declarations under the *Water Act*. The summary paper provided during the meeting included details of the consultation process; the reasons for and importance of reviewing the Beneficial Use Declarations; and then next steps following review of the Beneficial Use Declarations. The communications plan (provided in full to DHAC at a previous time) was summarised and confirmation of DHAC's approval of this plan was sought. The Chairman highlighted that as DHAC was the public face for the consultation he would be speaking at the upcoming community forums and encouraged members to attend at least one of the forums. The forums will be held at Mandorah, Litchfield and Darwin on 1, 2 and 3 May respectively. Advertising begins on 17 April 2007.

ACTION

1. George Maly is to send members details of the times, dates and venues of the forums.
2. George Maly is to send a copy of the radio advertisements to DHAC members
3. An agenda item is to be included for the next regular DHAC meeting to discuss the Water Values held by DHAC

Bob Wasson asked why only three of the beneficial uses included research and not others. A definitive response was not provided but that this could be considered during the review of the Beneficial Use Declarations. The fact sheet will be amended in accordance with a suggestion by Peter Robertson that it should state that ecological sustainability would underpin beneficial use decisions.

5. Plan of Management Status Report

Three papers were discussed

- Agenda paper on the draft Status Report 2005-2006
- Draft Status Report 2005-2006
- Actions – Key responsibility held by DHAC

Notes for consideration and amendment of the Status Report were taken by Robyn Henderson. The Status report will be amended accordingly and a revised draft will be forwarded to the committee.

Discussion was held regarding how the Status Report was not easily digestible for the general public and it was suggested that it should be revised. The Chairman stated that the tabular format of the Status Report was based on the Plan of Management and it would not be practical to change it. However, the order of the report sections could be changed (Section 3 could be moved before the action status table so that the important and digestible

information came first) and once the executive summary has been prepared this should provide an easily read summary of the report... It is also intended that a two-page flyer summarising the Status Report will be prepared.

A number of the issues raised about the Status Report were more relevant to the review of the Plan of Management. Examples include removing repetition of actions in different sections. These items will be raised again during future discussions on the review of the Plan of Management.

Discussion followed regarding the actions in the Plan of Management that DHAC is listed to hold key responsibility for. Discussions covered concerns about funding items in the action plan, the inadequacy of monitoring in the harbour and DHAC's current role. DHAC members indicated that DHAC can facilitate an integrated approach to harbour management but needs resources to do so. Some of the actions in the Plan of Management with primary responsibility held by DHAC were considered inappropriate or impractical for DHAC to pursue, either for financial/resource reasons or because other agencies or groups hold main carriage for implementation. It was agreed that for such actions standard responses should be drafted for inclusion in the Status report.

It was acknowledged that many agencies were addressing actions in the Plan as part of their normal business and not necessarily because those actions were cited in the Plan. A number of issues relevant to the review of the Plan of Management were raised and these have been listed in Attachment A

ACTION 4

DHAC members to provide comments on Status report to Robyn Henderson by 30 April. The Status report is to be amended accordingly and an executive summary drafted for review.

6. Darwin Clean Fuels project (Condensate Facility)

Tony Dedenham from Darwin Clean Fuels Pty Ltd presented the Darwin Clean Fuels proposal for a condensate processing plant at East Arm. The Plant will process condensate, the wet element associated with production of gas, from the Timor Sea, making high quality transport fuels. These fuels would replace imports from Singapore and be exported to Asia and the west coast of the United States. According to Tony, processing condensate produces only 25% of the carbon dioxide that processing the same quantity of crude oil. Benefits for the Northern Territory include economic growth and jobs, including jobs through the Larrakia Development Corporation.

A scoping study showed minimal risks in terms of spills and emissions. Shipping would increase by an extra three movements each month and would be in double-hulled ships. The facility would have 12 tanks of various sizes. The tanks are likely to be the same height as the Vopak tanks but with a larger diameter and settlement ponds are expected to avoid no run off.

Discussions were held in regards to the proposed location, changes to the wharf, shipping movements and the Clean Fuels distillation process.

A Notice of Intent has been lodged and an Environment Impact Statement is currently being developed by URS with the intention of lodgement in January 2008.

It was stated that DHAC would object to any unnecessary clearing of mangroves.

7. Creating Darwin's Future

An Urban Planning forum for the Darwin CBD will be held on the 24th April focussing on building and open space issues. The Government funded forum grew out of the Capital Cities Committee and is integrated with the Chief Minister's vision for Creating Darwin's Future (meeting attended early in March). Discussion ensued about how the proposal placed a lot of emphasis on land use and showed little regard to the harbour. DHAC members agreed that a letter regarding Creating Darwin's Future should be drafted reiterating comments previously made about sewage, Glyde Point, etc.

ACTION 5

Members are to send dot points to Robyn by Friday 20 April. Robyn and the Chairman will draft a letter to the Chief Minister.

8. Local Aboriginal Consultative Framework Progress (IWG project)

Susan Pedersen and Donna Jackson provided an update on the establishment of a local Aboriginal harbour committee, which will progress the work of the Indigenous Working Group which no longer meets.

- Flyers inviting appropriate representatives have been circulated among local Aboriginal people through the Northern Land Council and Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation.
- Draft Terms of Reference have been circulated to DHAC members outlining the membership and functions of the proposed committee.
- The first meeting of the new local Aboriginal harbour committee will be scheduled shortly.
- The first meeting of the committee would focus on the name of the proposed committee, appointing a Chairperson, reviewing the draft Terms of Reference and introducing the agenda items for the next meeting.
- The local Aboriginal Harbour committee will report to the local Aboriginal stakeholders they represent and, through Donna Jackson, DHAC.
- Donna Jackson suggested that the proposed Warai representative be replaced with a Tiwi representative.
- Support from DHAC was requested for paying sitting fees to the members of the proposed committee.

Lyn Allen stated that there is funding available until 30 June 2007. After this date funding will need to be budgeted from the DHAC operational budget.

There will however be some funding available through WQPP and other programs wishing to use this consultation framework. This is likely to be a financial commitment in the order of \$20 000 per annum.

RESOLUTION

The Committee agrees to support the proposed local Aboriginal harbour committee and payment of sitting fees to approved representatives (as outlined in the draft Terms of Reference) attending meetings.

Moved: Chris Makepeace

Seconded: Bob Wasson

ACTION

6. Susan Pedersen to prepare a Ministerial requesting approval to pay sitting fees to members of the proposed local Aboriginal harbour committee.

7. The Agenda for the first meeting of the local Aboriginal harbour committee is to be circulated to DHAC members prior to the meeting.

9. Current Environmental Impact Assessment Matters

No further Environmental Assessment matters in the Darwin Harbour Region to report. In response to Peter Robertson's question about the new Power Station at Weddell, Ms Croft advised that a Notice of Intent had been lodged and that the Minister decided that no further environmental assessment was required. Following discussions it was agreed that Ms Croft should request that Power and Water make the Notice of Intent publicly available. If PowerWater are not forthcoming, a letter would be drafted to Minister Vatskalis.

ACTION 8

Juanita Croft to request that Power and Water make the NOI for the proposed Power Station at Weddell available to the public. If PowerWater are not forthcoming, a letter would be drafted to Minister Vatskalis.

10. Correspondence

Incoming and outgoing correspondence was tabled. List of correspondence noted.

11. Minor Items

World Environment Day to be held 3 June 10.30am to 5pm

- DHAC will participate this year and have a display.

- Members of the committee are invited and encouraged to attend and to man the DHAC display.
- John Bailey to do a presentation on the role of DHAC.

July Newsletter

- Suggestions for articles and contribution of articles to the July newsletter are welcomed and encouraged.
- Personal biographies requested.

12. Financial report

Financial report as at 31 March 2007 tabled.

13. Other Business

Chris Makepeace provided background regarding the proposed boat ramp at East Arm at a cost of \$2.8 million. It is being built by Government (Northern Territory Land Corporation) as part of a contract with Paspaley. The plans have not been finalised.

The reclamation of land and mangroves, Catalina wrecks and Aboriginal archaeological sites were discussed. Also discussed was the fact that the funds for the proposal exceeded the budget for harbour management. Peter Robertson suggested that the boat ramp could be scaled back and the remaining funds put into harbour protection projects. Chris Makepeace indicated that even if the boat ramp were to be scaled back he did not believe that the excess funds would be redirected to where DHAC would prefer to see them spent.

Next regular meeting is 4 June 2007 10am – 1pm.

Proposed future meeting date: Monday 13 August 2007 10am-1pm

ITEMS RAISED FOR CONSIDERSTION IN 2007 REVIEW OF THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

- 1) A Report Card similar to that produced for Moreton Bay should be produced for Darwin Harbour.
- 2) Instead of 15 recommendations the Plan of Management should include 15 objectives
- 3) The coding for actions in the Plan of Management is too complicated and difficult to follow.
- 4) Biomonitoring should be considered. In monitoring, speciation is critical and of much higher value and use than monitoring totals of elements as is current practice.
- 5) Consideration should be given to reducing and simplifying the Plan of Management.
- 6) A number of the actions for which DHAC holds key responsibility, particularly those that are not practical for DHAC to implement such as promoting festivals, should be removed from the Actions and included as "a wish list" or similar.
- 7) DHAC responsibilities should be prioritised ensuring the highest priorities are undertaken.
- 8) A suggestion was made that DHAC should focus on biology and monitoring of harbour. However, it was also suggested that this could disconnect DHAC from the community.
- 9) DHAC could recognise the significance of the Environment and focus on it, possibly accepting that Value is there and work on the basis of that it is.