



Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

MINUTES FOR MEETING 20

Monday 4th June 2007

10 am to 1.00 pm

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

1. Welcome And Apologies

Present:

Name	Representing
John Bailey	Independent Chairperson
Chris Makepeace	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
Duncan Dean	Community Representative
Prue Barnard	Australian Marine Conservation Society
Adele Pedder	Australian Marine Conservation Society
Donna Jackson	Larrakia Nation Governing Committee
Bob Wasson	Charles Darwin University, Chair Ecosystem Research Group
Alistair Black	Darwin Port Corporation
Lyn Allen	Executive Director Environment and Heritage
Donna Quong	Michels Warren and Munday
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:

Luccio Cercareli	Local Government Association NT
Greg Bicknell	Chamber of Commerce NT
Lesley Alford	Greening Australia NT
Juanita Croft	Director Environmental Assessment & Policy
Simon Townsend	Manager, Aquatic Health Unit, Chair Ecosystem Monitoring Group

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

2. Acceptance Of Previous Minutes

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

Moved: Chris Makepeace

Seconded: Bob Wasson

3. Action Sheet From Previous Meeting

Action sheet noted and brief update given. All actions from the previous meeting have been attended to except the letter to the Department of the Chief Minister in relation to "Creating Darwin's Future".

4. Water Quality Protection Plan

George Maly provided an update on the public consultation for review of the Beneficial Use Declarations under the *Water Act*. Submissions close 15 June and 64 responses have been received so far. Members were requested to encourage their respective organisations and community groups to make submissions. The next steps of the process were outlined including that submissions would be collated and results of the consultation would be presented to DHAC for review and input prior to finalisation and prior to any changes to the Beneficial Use Declarations. Results will be presented to DHAC during the next regular meeting.

RESOLUTION

To review the results of the public consultation once collated, and provide comment and DHAC views on beneficial uses at that time.

ACTION

The results of the public consultation are to be provided to DHAC well in advance of the next regular meeting to allow time for DHAC to review and formulate comments.

Brief discussions on the review of the Beneficial Use Declarations were held and the following points were raised:

- Concern was raised over the small number of responses to date and whether this was an indication of a mistrust of government.
- The importance of considering information that is already available outside the public consultation process was raised. Eg the use of the harbour for shipping movements.
- Concern was raised about the ability to quantify results; however, advice was provided by the EPA Program staff about how the beneficial use declarations are used to inform water quality objectives. The beneficial use requiring the most stringent water quality standards would prevail as the requirement for water quality even if that use is a minority use.
- Development will need to conform to water quality requirements.

Discussion was held on why Glyde Point was not included in the review of the Beneficial Use Declarations. George Maly indicated that only areas of land from which water drains to the harbour were included in the consultation. Bob Wasson raised the point that 60% of the particulate matter entering the harbour comes from offshore and not from the catchment.

George Maly assured members that these issues would be considered following the consultation. Adele Pedder raised the point that the 16000 person residential development associated with the proposed Glyde Point development would be located in the catchment area and that the impact of this, including sewage outfall, would need to be considered. Concern was also raised that Leeder's Creek on Gunn Point has not been identified and that this should form part of the consultation.

ACTION

A higher resolution map should be sourced to demonstrate where Glyde Point is located in relation to Darwin Harbour and its catchment as designated by the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management so that DHAC can determine whether Glyde Point is part of DHAC's jurisdiction.

The point was emphasised that Beneficial Use Declarations are not a wish list but an indication of actual uses.

5. Plan of Management Status Report

Robyn Henderson provided an update of the progress of the 2005-2006 Status Report. Agencies are still being followed up for further information on implementation of actions. The Status Report will be printed prior to 30 June 2007 and therefore timeframes for finalisation and comment are limited.

ACTION

A revised draft of the status report including the Chair's message and executive summary will be provided to DHAC for comment by 13 June. DHAC will have one week to provide comment.

6. Plan of Management Review

Draft Communication Strategy

The draft communications strategy for the review of the Plan of Management has been revised since DHAC last reviewed it in December 2006 and this revised draft was discussed. Concern was raised by members that the approach for the review of the Plan of Management had not been agreed to and therefore until the approach was finalised and the draft communication strategy was complete with all expenses included the strategy could not be approved by members.

ACTION

The draft communication strategy for the Review of the Plan of Management to be revised after the approach for the review of the Plan of Management has been finalised.

Review of the Plan of Management introductory discussion - facilitator

Donna Quong

Members discussed the Review of the Plan of Management, DHAC and Government's commitment to the Plan of Management as a starting point

for the consultant, Donna Quong, to formulate a plan and strategy for a more extensive DHAC workshop to inform the review of the Plan of Management.

ACTION

Members will be consulted about a convenient time and date for the DHAC workshop on the Review of the Plan of Management.

Members expressed concern that the Government's commitment to the Plan of Management may have changed since the Plan was endorsed in 2004. Members suggested that confirmation of Government's support for the Plan of Management was imperative prior to embarking on a review of the Plan of Management. Members agreed to invite the Minister to the next DHAC regular meeting to discuss Government's relationship with DHAC and Government's commitment to and practical support of the Plan of Management. Donna Jackson suggested that members of the Larrakia Harbour Committee be invited to the meeting as well.

ACTION

Robyn Henderson to draft a letter to the Minister for John Bailey's signature inviting the Minister to attend the next DHAC regular meeting.

7. Report on ERG

Many actions of the Plan of Management that would otherwise be the responsibility of the ERG are being picked up by the work of Tropical Research and Coastal Knowledge (TRACK) and WQPP. Bob Wasson will provide a link between the work undertaken by TRACK and DHAC by providing reports at DHAC regular meetings.

The Committee also requires greater detail of the WQPP project and associated monitoring.

ACTION

1. Bob Wasson to provide a report at the next meeting on TRACK progress.
2. Lyn Allen to organise a briefing on WQPP

Bob Wasson raised a funding bid that he has been working on in relation to global warming. Indigenous groups will be a focal point and the Harbour will be a key element. The Committee may be approached as a conduit for adaptation activities and funds may be provided for associated actions. These actions may inform Plan of Management actions. The Chair suggested that DHAC could be a facilitator.

8. Report on EMG

Robyn Henderson reported on behalf of Simon Townsend. George Maly has organised a meeting on behalf of the EMG to inform the EMG of action under

the WQPP and future activities. The meeting will be an opportunity to discuss EMG involvement.

9. Local Larrakia Harbour Committee Update

Larrakia Harbour Committee met for the first time in May with half the Larrakia families represented. The second meeting will be held on 6 June and will include a presentation on WQPP.

Discussion was held on whether the lack of other indigenous groups on the committee could be a concern to those groups. Donna Jackson indicated that she did not believe it would be a concern and highlighted the strong feeling that the group should be a Larrakia committee as the Harbour is located in the middle of their land.

10. Current Environmental Impact Assessment Matters

No further Environmental Assessment matters in the Darwin Harbour Region to report.

11. Correspondence

Incoming correspondence was tabled. List of correspondence noted.

12. Financial report

Financial report as at 31 May 2007 tabled (Please note that the report was incorrectly labelled as 30 April 2007).

13. Other Business

Discussions of DOW Chemical Plant

Members raised concern about the idea of a Dow Chemical Plant being proposed in the Darwin Harbour Region following media reports about discussions between the Chief Minister and DOW Chemicals.

ACTION

Robyn Henderson to identify a way of contacting Dow Chemicals. Robyn Henderson to draft letters introducing DHAC and the Plan of Management for John Bailey's signature.

Stuart O'Grady's Artificial Reef Project

Stuart O'Grady has provided a CD of his Artificial Reef Project to Donna Jackson, John Bailey and Robyn Henderson for DHAC's information and consideration.

Donna Jackson raised concern that Stuart had indicated support from Larakia Nation in his documentation. Donna does not believe that Larrakia have agreed to support the project.

ACTION

Robyn Henderson to investigate how the information on the Artificial Reef project can best be distributed to members.

Next regular meeting is planned for Monday 13 August 2007 10am-1pm however this is subject to the Minister's availability to attend the next meeting.