



# Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

## DRAFT MINUTES FOR MEETING 21

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August

10 am to 1.10 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
Luccio Cercareli	Local Government Association NT
Greg Bicknell	Chamber of Commerce NT
Gael Davidson	Greening Australia NT
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
Simon Townsend	Manager, Aquatic Health Unit, Chair Ecosystem Monitoring Group

#### Guest Speakers

Christine Friebe	Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines
Kyle Hercus	McMahon Services
Jane Munday	Michels Warren Munday
Alistair Stephens	Managing Director Arafura Resources

#### Apologies:

Donna Jackson	Larrakia Nation Governing Committee
Bob Wasson	Charles Darwin University, Chair Ecosystem Research Group
Alistair Black	Darwin Port Corporation

### **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.

The results of the public consultation on the review of the Beneficial Use Declarations have been presented at an out-of-session meeting on 8 August 07. A higher resolution map was emailed to members on 30 July 07.

As discussed during the out-of-session meeting, Lyn Allen tabled a spreadsheet on the public consultation of the Beneficial Use Declarations Review and an addendum. The view of DHAC, as a committee, is sought to further inform the consultation results prior to presenting the results to Government. George is willing to meet with members individually to further discuss the Beneficial Use Declaration consultation.

#### **ACTION**

Upon his return George Maly will put in place a process to receive input from DHAC.

Organising the DHAC workshop for the review of the Plan of Management and the draft communication strategy for the review have yet to be finalised.

### 4. Reserve from Occupation for Darwin Harbour – Christine Friebe, Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines.

Christine provided a history of why a Reserve from Occupation under the *Mining Act* was proposed for the Harbour and explained the implications. The Reserve from Occupation will cover Darwin Harbour as gazetted by the Darwin Port Corporation. It is thought that the boundaries are the high water mark and that some dry land is included; however, this detail needs to be confirmed. The Reserve from Occupation prohibits extractive mining from occurring in this area. The Minister has the right to refuse other activities in the Harbour but has the discretion to allow activities (other than mining) that would be beneficial to the Harbour. These activities can be strictly controlled.

The Reserve from Occupation has yet to be gazetted.

#### **ACTION**

Draft a letter to the Minister for Mines and Energy, on behalf of DHAC, for John Bailey's signature. The letter will seek clarification on the boundaries of the Darwin Harbour as gazetted by Darwin Port Corporation.

#### **RESOLUTION**

DHAC supports the gazettal of a Reserve from Occupation over Darwin Harbour.

## **5. Plan of Management Status Report**

Robyn Henderson provided an update on the progress of the 2005-2006 Status Report. The report has been printed and is now ready to be handed to the Minister and released publicly. Due to the Cabinet reshuffle last week, Minister Delia Lawrie is the new Minister for Natural Resources Environment and the Arts. A date for the handover of the Status report has yet to be determined.

## **6. Plan of Management Review**

Donna Quong, the consultant for the review, is currently considering timeframes for the DHAC workshop and preparing for the workshop. Robyn Henderson will send suggested dates to members as soon as they are available.

It has been suggested that a model for a new Plan of Management forms the basis of the public consultation rather than taking the current Plan of Management to the public for comment.

## **7. 0708 DHAC Budget**

The proposed budget for 2007-2008 financial year was tabled.

## **8. Ocean Vessel Decommissioning Facility – Kyle Hercus, McMahon Services**

Kyle Hercus briefed DHAC on the proposal to develop an Ocean Vessel/Marine Structures Environmental Decommissioning and Recycling Facility in the Hudson Creek area of the Harbour. The company intend to comply with environmental requirements of the UK and US defence forces to capture the UK and US naval ship breaking market. The company intends to study environmental impact of both the construction and the operation of the facility. The facility will undertake ship breaking of vessels such as submarines, single hulled vessels and illegal fishing vessels.

The company is seeking in principle approval from DHAC.

DHAC raised concern about the risk of cyclones damaging vessels awaiting decommissioning and whether vessels would be stored in the harbour. Kyle stated that the company would aim for vessels to be in the harbour for the shortest possible time, only bringing vessels to the harbour just prior to decommissioning. Single hulled vessels would be towed to the facility as their operation is prohibited. The company does not intend to bring vessels into the harbour during cyclone season unless they can be brought straight into the facility and locked up. During a cyclone warning the company would utilise piles that are rated to withstand category 5 cyclones.

DHAC raised concern about nuclear vessels. Kyle stated that the US defence forces would remove nuclear generation prior to entering Darwin Harbour.

Ballast water would be removed, treated, tested and then deep buried. Ballast water would be exchanged off shore.

The antifouling would not be removed from the vessels, but received by recyclers as part of steelwork. Antifouling released in the harbour would only be that of wear and tear as vessels pass through the Harbour.

AFMA were considering developing a decommissioning facility at this location but stepped back as McMahon Services had already developed the proposal.

**ACTION**

1. Robyn Henderson and John Bailey to draft a letter to the Minister and to McMahons Services expressing the DHAC view that rigorous environmental impact assessment should be undertaken prior to considering such a facility.
2. Chris Makepeace to send AFANT's response to McMahon Services to Robyn

**9. Proposed processing facility – Alistair Stephens, Managing Director, Arafura Resources.**

Alistair Stephens briefed DHAC on the proposal to develop a rare earths processing facility within Darwin Harbour Catchment. The location of the facility has yet to be determined. East Arm Port, Wickham Point and Hidden Valley are locations under consideration. Alistair explained the processing and chemicals involved. Uranium Oxide and Thorium will be waste products and there will be acids and alkalis involved in the processing as well. Arafura Resources plans to provide land adjacent to their operations for a complimentary chemical plant.

DHAC commented that generally they would encourage industry to remain in industrial zones that have already been disturbed rather than new fronts such as Glyde Point.

DHAC's concern is what is going into or being taken out of the Harbour.

**ACTION**

1. Robyn Henderson and John Bailey to draft a letter to the Minister and to Arafura Resources expressing the DHAC view that rigorous environmental impact assessment should be undertaken prior to considering such a facility.
2. Robyn Henderson to contact Jane Munday to request a copy of the power point presentation.

**10. Report on ERG**

Bob Wasson was not available to present the report on the TRaCK project; however, a written report on the project was forwarded to members following the meeting.

### **11. Report on EMG**

Simon Townsend provided an update on the activities of the EMG and their task in proposing water quality guidelines and objectives for the Water Quality Protection Plan. Work has started on dividing the harbour and its catchment into common water bodies to develop water quality objectives, and nominate water quality indicators. Information will be circulated to EMG members for comment in a few weeks. Once the framework is established, water quality data will be collated. Only then, can water quality objectives be assessed. No date has been set for the next meeting, though DHAC members will be informed of the date should they want to attend.

### **12. Local Larrakia Harbour Committee Update**

Susan Pedersen provided an update on Larrakia Harbour Committee activities. The Larrakia Harbour Committee has met three times. The Terms of Reference were reviewed at the last meeting, which did not have a quorum, but it is expected that the next meeting of the LHC in September will ratify the revised terms of reference. Another outcome of the last meeting was an action for Donna to lead a team to prepare a report for the review of the Beneficial Uses Declarations. The report is to be presented for ratifying at the next meeting. The report will be submitted to the WQPP team after the September meeting, unless significant changes are requested and need to be ratified by the committee at the October LHC meeting.

### **13. Current Environmental Impact Assessment Matters**

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

### **14. Correspondence**

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

### **15. Financial report**

Last year's financial report has not been finalised as final figures had not been received.

### **16. Other Business**

Chris Makepeace tabled a call for tender for creation of a new deep water Harbour entry.

#### **ACTION**

Robyn Henderson to follow up with Alistair Black to gain information about the tender

Prue Barnard raised the matter of signage at sewage outfalls on behalf of Donna Jackson. It has been noted that signs have yet to be erected.

**ACTION**

EPA program staff to follow up the status of the signage and to send details to members along with background on the issue.

John Bailey attended a seminar on Acid Sulphate soils.

**ACTION**

Robyn Henderson to follow up the possibility of distributing a copy of the Acid Sulphate Soils presentation to DHAC.

Next regular meeting is planned for Thursday 11 October 2007 9am-12pm.

**ACTION SHEET**  
**Meeting 21**  
**Monday 13 August 2007**

<b>Agenda Number</b>	<b>Agenda Item Title</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Status</b>
3	Action sheet from previous meeting	Upon his return George Maly will put in place a process to receive input from DHAC	George Maly		Email Sent 5 September
4	Reserve from Occupation for Darwin Harbour	Draft a letter to the Minister for Mines and Energy, on behalf of DHAC, for John Bailey's signature. The letter will seek clarification on the boundaries of the Darwin Harbour as gazetted by Darwin Port Corporation.	Robyn Henderson and John Bailey	31.08.07	Sent 30 August 2007
8	Ocean Vessel Decommissioning facility	Robyn Henderson and John Bailey to draft a letter to the Minister and to McMahons Services expressing the DHAC view that rigorous environmental impact assessment should be undertaken prior to considering such a facility.	Robyn Henderson and John Bailey	31.08.07	Sent 30 August 2007
8	Ocean Vessel Decommissioning facility	Chris Makepeace to send AFANT's response to McMahon Services to Robyn	Chris Makepeace	31.08.07	Email sent 14 August 2007
9	Proposed processing facility Arafura Resources.	Robyn Henderson and John Bailey to draft a letter to the Minister and to Arafura Resources expressing the DHAC view that rigorous environmental impact assessment should be undertaken prior to considering such a facility.	Robyn Henderson and John Bailey	31.08.07	Sent 30 August 2007
9	Proposed processing facility Arafura Resources.	Robyn Henderson to contact Jane Munday to request a copy of the power point presentation.	Robyn Henderson	31.08.07	Contact was made but provision of information is delayed awaiting confirmation of

					figures
16	Other Business – Creation of a new deep water harbour entry tender	Robyn Henderson to follow up with Alistair Black to gain information about the tender	Robyn Henderson	31.08.07	Email sent 30 August 2007
16	Other Business – Signage at sewage outfalls	EPA program staff to follow up the status of the signage and to send details to members along with background on the issue.	Robyn Henderson	25.08.07	Sent 23 August 2007
16	Other Business – Acid Sulfate soils	Robyn Henderson to follow up the possibility of distributing a copy of the Acid Sulphate Soils presentation to DHAC.	Robyn Henderson	31.08.07	1 Copy available for members additional copies can be requested.