



# Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

## MINUTES FOR MEETING 27

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008

1pm to 4pm

Meeting Room 1, Darwin City Council

### 1. Welcome And Apologies

#### Present:

Name	Representing
Bill Stuchbery	Independent Chairperson
Chris Makepeace	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
Luccio Cercarelli	Local Government Association NT
Prue Barnard	Australian Marine Conservation Society
Bob Wasson	Charles Darwin University, Chair Ecosystem Research Group
Alastair Black	Darwin Port Corporation
Greg Bicknell	Chamber of Commerce NT
Minister Anderson	Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage
Mathew Fagan	Minister's Advisor
Lyn Allen	Executive Director, Environment Heritage & the Arts, NRETAS
Robyn Henderson	Project Coordinator, Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management, Environment, Heritage and the Arts NRETAS
Robin Macgillivray	Policy Officer, Environment, Heritage and the Arts, NRETAS
Mark Meldrum	Director, Strategic Planning, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

#### Guests

Ian Lancaster	Controller of Waters, NRETAS
Jane Munday	Michaels Warren Munday
Anita Potter	BHP Billiton

#### Apologies:

Peter Ebsworth	Greening Australia NT
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### **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. Round the table discussion with Minister Anderson on the progression of DHAC.**

The role of DHAC, terms of reference for DHAC and the relationship with the Minister was discussed.

Minister Anderson committed to an open relationship with DHAC and an intention to attend every 2<sup>nd</sup> DHAC meeting.

Minister Anderson supports DHAC as an advisory committee. DHAC's "power" comes with the ability to provide advice on direction of government through the relationship with the Minister. Minister Anderson respects the role of DHAC and the need for DHAC to maintain independence.

As a group with diverse membership DHAC will bring different points of view to Government.

Minister Anderson agreed to seek information Minister to Minister to improve transparency of government and agencies and to assist DHAC with availability of strategic vision/planning policies.

The draft Strategic Framework for Managing Darwin Harbour 2009-2013 was discussed and the need for Ministerial support for the framework to achieve outcomes was highlighted. Once finalised and agreed to by the Minister, she intends to take the framework to Cabinet.

Agreement was reached that the aim should be for the Strategic Framework to be a partnership document between DHAC and Government.

DHAC members raised the need to issue a media release and start taking messages to the public. It was agreed that the media release on this occasion would be issued by DHAC rather than the Minister.

<b>Action</b>
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A DHAC media release will be issued and a comment from the Minister will be sought and included.
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### **4. Discussion and Finalisation of the Draft Terms of Reference**

The Minister and DHAC members agreed to the Terms of Reference subject to the following changes:

1. A statement of expectations is prepared and agreed to by the Minister and DHAC.
2. The statement of expectations is referred to in the terms of reference and the revised wording is: "The Minister has agreed to provide the Committee with a Statement of Expectations detailing key focus areas for the Committee as well as any additional specific duties. This Statement will also set out the process by which the Minister will assist the Committee in the performance of its functions."
3. Representation of the Minister for Planning and Lands and Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage at DHAC meetings should be changed to senior officials from the respective Departments.
4. Any references to the DHAC Chairman should be changed to Chairperson.

5. The section on Review and Evaluation should be amended to clarify that the Strategic Framework will be subject to a full review every five years but that it will be a living document that will be amended on an as needs basis

**Action**

Terms of reference are to be amended and a statement of expectations is to be prepared and considered by DHAC and the Minister.

**Resolution**

The Minister and DHAC agreed to the terms of reference subject to the stated amendments and agreement to a statement of expectations

*Membership*

Environment Centre is willing to continue their membership on DHAC for a further 12 months trialling the terms of reference. If not satisfied with the outcomes they may withdraw from DHAC.

The need to seek nominations to fill vacant positions on DHAC was discussed and the importance of re-engaging Larrakia Nation was highlighted.

**Action**

Project Coordinator is to continue the process that has already been commenced to seek nominations from organisations listed in the terms of reference. Arrangements need to be undertaken to advertise in the NT News for nominations for the positions of community representatives. The Project Coordinator will notify DHAC members when the community representative advertisement is booked.

**5. Current Environmental Impact Assessment matters**

Lyn Allen reported:

1. that the Guidelines for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for INPEX have been issued and INPEX is currently preparing the EIS.
2. that the Guidelines for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Olympic Dam expansion for transporting concentrate out of Darwin by BHP Billiton have also been issued.

Concerns were raised about current processes for loading copper concentrate through Darwin Port.

Environment Heritage and the Arts Division have been working with Darwin Port Corporation regarding upgrading of loading facilities.

**Action**

A short briefing paper will be prepared in inform DHAC on the issue of transporting and loading copper concentrate.

**6. Water Allocation Planning – Update - Ian Lancaster**

Ian Lancaster provided a presentation to DHAC on a proposed change of approach to establishing the high level group to guide water allocation planning in the Top End.

The Water Control District has been extended to far exceed the boundaries of the Darwin Harbour Catchment. The proposed approach is to establish a high level expert group, with a limited membership number (5-6 persons), for a period of

approximately 12 months, to develop highly strategic guidance to water allocation planning over the whole district.

DHAC involvement would include:

1. One or two DHAC members included on expert group
2. Possibly shared Chair
3. Early input to discussion papers and thinking
4. Regular presentations by water management staff
5. reciprocal presentations from DHAC to the expert group

#### **Resolution**

DHAC members were satisfied and supportive of the new approach proposed for the Water Allocation Expert Group

#### **7. Proposal to transport Olympic Dam concentrate via Port of Darwin – Briefing- Anita Potter**

Anita Potter, BHP Billiton, provided a presentation on the Olympic Dam expansion, particularly the transport of concentrate via the port of Darwin.

The main issue that is likely to raise concern to the community is the presence of uranium on the copper concentrate. Although the levels of uranium are 1,000-2,000 parts per million and are considered to be low risk the company is instigating processes to reduce risk as follows:

1. Concentrate is transported in covered wagons;
2. the wagons are tipped inside a shed;
3. the exterior of wagons are washed down prior to return and the wash down water will be returned to Olympic Dam; and
4. the wagons will be labelled.

The loading facility is an engineered structure based on lead and zinc exports in Townsville.

The company will be undertaking monitoring to ensure that the environment is not being affected and DHAC will have access to the results

#### **Action**

The Project Coordinator will request a copy of the power point presentation

#### **8. Arafura Resources Projects – Jane Munday**

The current Environmental Impact Statement process is in relation to the mine. Arafura Resources are still in the process of site selection for there processing facility. Darwin Harbour region is one location under consideration.

#### **Action**

Jane Munday will provide some recent Arafura Resources publications to DHAC

#### **9. Meeting schedule for 2009**

#### **Action**

Proposed meeting schedule will be revised and forwarded to DHAC members

## 10. Correspondence

Correspondence was tabled.

Chris Makepeace raised a matter of correspondence that John Bailey, as chair, had sent to Minister Kiely in July 2008. A response has not been received.

### Action

Project Coordinator to follow up response to the letter.

## 11. Review of the Plan of Management

A paper on the current status of the Review of the Plan of Management and a summary of the Government Consultation was tabled at the meeting.

### Action

The Chair asked that DHAC members consider the comments provided by Government Agencies and respond to the Project Coordinator within two weeks.

## 12. Financial Report

The Project Coordinator tabled the financial report for the year to date.

The Chair expressed a commitment to seek additional funding.

Lyn Allen assured members that the DHAC budget does not account for all efforts on Darwin Harbour and that there are other mechanisms for getting work done. A plan of priority areas that DHAC wish to have pursued would be useful.

## 13. Other business

- Jane Munday advised that INPEX would be holding public meetings during the following week and invited DHAC members to attend.
- Presentations on research on the Darwin Harbour to date were suggested for future meetings.

### Action

Project Coordinator to liaise with Bob Wasson to organise presentations on Darwin Harbour research at future DHAC meetings

Next regular meeting is to be advised.

Meeting closed 4.10pm

**Action Sheet**  
**Meeting 27 19 November 2008**

<b>Agenda Number</b>	<b>Agenda Item Title</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Status</b>
3	Discussion with Minister Anderson on the progression of DHAC.	A DHAC media release will be issued and a comment from the Minister will be sought and included	Project Coordinator, DHAC Chair, Minister's Office and Media and Communications Division NRETAS	2 weeks	Completed 19 December 2008
4	Draft Terms of Reference	Terms of reference are to be amended and a statement of expectations is to be prepared and considered by DHAC and the Minister.	Project Coordinator, Minister's Office		Completed 18 December 2008
4	Draft Terms of Reference	Project Coordinator is to continue the process that has already been commenced to seek nominations from organisations listed in the terms of reference. Arrangements need to be undertaken to advertise in the NT News for nominations for the positions of community representatives. The Project Coordinator will notify DHAC members when the community representative advertisement is booked.	Project Coordinator		Outstanding. Advertising to be undertaken early February
4	Current Environmental Impact Assessment matters	A short briefing paper will be prepared in inform DHAC on the issue of transporting and loading copper concentrate	Executive Director, Environment Heritage and the Arts		Completed 22 December 2008
7	Proposal to transport Olympic Dam concentrate via Port of Darwin – Briefing	The Project Coordinator will request a copy of the power point presentation	Project Coordinator		Yet to be provided
8	Arafura Resources Projects	Jane Munday will provide some recent Arafura Resources publications to DHAC	Jane Munday		Completed 20 November 2008

9	Meeting Schedule for 2009	Proposed meeting schedule will be revised and forwarded to DHAC members	Project Coordinator		Emailed to members 27 November 2009
10	Correspondence	Project Coordinator to follow up correspondence that previous Chair sent to Minister Kiely regarding Middle Arm processes.	Project Coordinator		Response received 3 December 2009
11	Review of the Plan of Management	The Chair asked that DHAC members consider the comments provided by Government Agencies and respond to the Project Coordinator within two weeks.	DHAC members		Chris Makepeace provided comment
13	Other Business	Project Coordinator to liaise with Bob Wasson to organise presentations on Darwin Harbour research at future DHAC meetings	Project Coordinator		To commence March 2009 meeting