



# Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

## MINUTES FOR MEETING 31

Tuesday, 7 July 2009

9 AM to 12 Noon

Meeting Room I, Darwin City Council

### 1. Welcome And Apologies

#### Present

##### Name

Lyn Allen

Greg Bicknell

Melanie Bradley

Greg Constantine

Tom Harris

Kylie Harvey

Graeme Lewis

Chris Makepeace

Kate Roll

Sue Sultana

Bill Stuchbery

Gerhard Visser

##### Representing

Executive Director - Environment, Heritage and the Arts, NRETAS

Chamber of Commerce NT

Environment Centre NT

Larrakia Development Corporation

NT Horticultural Association

Defence Support NT/Kimberly

Tourism Top End

Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT

A/Project Coordinator, Environment, Heritage and the Arts, NRETAS

Tek Ventures Diving (Community rep)

Independent Chairperson

DPI

#### Guests

John Drewry

Julia Fortune

David Parry

Anita Poddar

David Steinberg

Aquatic Health – NRETAS

Aquatic Health – NRETAS

Australian Institute of Marine Science

BHP Billiton

Heritage - NRETAS

#### Apologies

Alastair Black

Luccio Cercarelli

Peter Dummett

David Jan

Mark Meldrum

Donna Odegaard

Bob Wasson

Darwin Port Corporation

LGANT

Perkins Shipping

Greening Australia NT

Manager, Strategic Planning and Policy,  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Larrakia Radio (Community rep)

Charles Darwin University, Chair Ecosystem  
Research Group

### **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

### 2. Introduction

### **3. Discussion of draft Darwin Harbour Strategy – DHAC**

DHAC members discussed the draft Darwin Harbour Strategy distributed at the meeting; this draft reflected comments and changes made by members during the previous two weeks.

In the session, the Committee reviewed the proposed changes, including, at the suggestion of the Larrakia Development Corporation representative, accepting the use of 'Larrakia and other Aboriginal' to replace the use of 'Indigenous' in the draft. Other revisions included streamlining text on ecologically sustainable development, modifying the Principle on climate change, and clarifying guidance on groundwater management.

Committee members also suggested revisions to the information on development provided in the Glossary; these revisions are to be circulated for approval following the meeting.

The Committee approved the final, consensus draft for publication, pending the changes to the Glossary. This discussion was resumed and concluded at the close of the meeting to allow for BHP Billiton to present as scheduled.

#### **Action**

Project Coordinator to revise Glossary and circulate revision for DHAC approval within 72 hours.

#### **Action**

DHAC approved the final, consensus draft and authorized its publication upon the acceptance of changes to the Glossary. Project Coordinator to provide Strategy to NRETAS Communications Office for reformatting and printing.

### **4. Presentation and Q&A on BHP Billiton's NT Transport Option for Olympic Dam Expansion – Anita Poddar**

Anita Poddar provided an overview presentation on the BHP Billiton expansion of the Olympic Dam site, with a focus on the transport of materials through Darwin Harbour. The draft EIS describing this proposal was made available to DHAC members; details of the NT Transport option were outlined in Appendix E.

BHP Billiton emphasized the relatively low levels of radiation expected to be detected outside of dedicated train carriages carrying copper-rich concentrate. More radioactive uranium oxide has been transported through Darwin Harbour since 2005. If the Olympic Dam comes online in the next 5-6 years, ships are expected to enter the Harbour to load the copper-rich concentrate on a fortnightly basis.

Steps will be taken to create a closed system for the unloading of copper-rich concentrate at East Arm Wharf. These include the sequestration of water

used to wash the carriages and its return to Olympic Dam ('zero-discharge'), covered conveyer belts, designated 'clean' and 'dirty' areas, and closed sheds. BHP Billiton facilities would be located on the expanded East Arm Wharf, controlled by the Darwin Port Corporation.

A DHAC member enquired about recent reports concerning the degraded condition of the rail system. BHP representatives noted that they were not responsible for rail maintenance. A question was also asked regarding plans for stormwater collection; according to BHP, options for collecting and reusing stormwater for washing down rail cars was being considered. BHP is seeking to minimize its impact on Darwin's energy and water resources.

Another DHAC member asked about the relative inertness, particle size and properties of the copper-rich concentrate. BHP noted that because of its various properties, were spills to occur at sea, the majority of the concentrate would be entrained in sediment and recovered.

DHAC queried as to plans for monitoring of air and water quality. BHP noted that it intended to carry out baseline sediment studies, as well as ongoing monitoring at the Wharf site. BHP noted that it may be interested in participating in a possible integrated harbour monitoring program, as used in Port Curtis, central Queensland.

**Action**

DHAC appreciates BHP Billiton's ongoing engagement with the Committee.

**Action**

DHAC shall finalize its feedback to BHP Billiton by Friday, 7 August 2009 on BHP Billiton's draft EIS for the expansion of Olympic Dam and NT Transport Option.

**5. Presentation on Underwater Heritage Issues in Darwin Harbour – Mr David Steinberg, NRETAS**

Mr David Steinberg provided an overview of current underwater heritage sites, issues and initiatives in Darwin Harbour. He noted that major legislation governing underwater heritage sites included the Northern Territory's Heritage Conservation Act (1991) and the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act (1976).

Wrecks and other underwater heritage sites in Darwin Harbour are subject to a variety of different management measures, and only a small percent have access restrictions. In some cases, mooring buoys are available to prevent anchor damage; instances of illegal anchoring are pursued by the water police and the Harbourmaster, Darwin Port Corporation, on behalf of Heritage. NRETAS has made efforts to encourage people to learn about these sites' importance, including producing interpretive dive cards for the *Booya* site.

Recent interpretation of the Historic Shipwrecks Act has extended the Commonwealth's control over wrecks up in coastal waters up to the shoreline previously managed by the Territory. This change raises management issues that may best be addressed by a representative sub-committee or working group.

Mr David Steinberg proposed the creation of a DHAC subcommittee to provide a consultative forum to discuss the management of Darwin Harbour's underwater heritage and provide a community focal point for underwater heritage issues. Members would be drawn from the diving community as well as from local fishing, port and heritage bodies.

DHAC members responded favourably to this idea. DHAC members noted that Larrakia coastal and underwater heritage should also be recognized and valued.

**Action**

DHAC provides in principle support for the creation of a DHAC subcommittee or working group to address underwater heritage issues in the Darwin Harbour region.

**Action**

Project Coordinator to meet with representatives from Heritage-NRETAS to create a draft Terms of Reference for a proposed underwater heritage DHAC subcommittee or working group.

**Action**

Heritage representatives to meet with DHAC Chair and other interested members to discuss the draft Terms of Reference and the composition of the proposed underwater heritage DHAC subcommittee or working group.

**6. Presentation of Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards 2009 – Ms Julia Fortune and Mr John Drewry, Aquatic Health – NRETAS**

Ms Julia Fortune and Mr John Drewry presented DHAC with an overview of the draft Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards produced by the Aquatic Health Unit, NRETAS. DHAC will be an important partner in raising public awareness of the Report Cards.

The principles of the Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards are similar to those of other States' report cards, yet the Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards also include information on projects taking place in the region and reflect the unique dynamics of the area. The Report Cards are tied to the monitoring component of the Water Quality Protection Plan (WQPP) and also include data from other research programs. These cards offer an opportunity to share a wealth of scientific data in a manner that is accessible and understandable to a lay person.

The design of the Report Cards allows for the templates to be 'populated' with data on an annual or biennial basis. DHAC members, while acknowledging resource restraints, strongly encouraged the annual production of the Report Cards. DHAC members expressed enthusiasm for the engaging design of the Report Cards and the explanatory diagrams.

In the discussion of the Report Cards, DHAC members noted that the data were drawn from a number of different years, and in some cases there were gaps or information was a few years old. This was explained by Aquatic Health to be a result of changes to monitoring programs and the time needed for data analysis. DHAC members suggested that text in the Report Cards explain these factors.

DHAC members were asked to provide additional comment on the draft Report Cards. Upon completion, the Report Cards shall be available online through the NRETAS website.

**Action**

Project Coordinator to circulate electronic copy of the draft Report Cards to DHAC Members. DHAC to provide comment to Julia Fortune on the draft Report Cards by Friday, 17 July 2009.

**Action**

DHAC appreciates the hard work of the Aquatic Health team, and believes that the Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards will help to advance popular understanding of the Harbour and its systems.

**7. Update on current Environmental Impact Assessment matters from Ms Lyn Allen, Executive Director – Environment, Heritage and The Arts, NRETAS**

Ms Lyn Allen informed the Committee that the environmental impact statement (EIS) guidelines for the Tenax Energy Clarence Strait Tidal Energy Project were now available to the public online (<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/assessment/register/tenaxtidal/index.html>). In addition, information on BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam Expansion – NT Transport Option draft EIS continue to be available.

**Action**

Project Coordinator to email Committee members the NRETAS link to the Tenax Energy EIS guidelines.

**8. Acceptance of previous minutes, financial report and correspondence registers**

The Committee agreed that the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted; moved by Greg Constantine; seconded by Sue Sultana. Financial

reports, May action sheet and correspondence registers were circulated by email for review.

**Action**

Project Coordinator to circulate financial report, May action sheet and correspondence registers to DHAC members by email.

Next regular meeting is to be held on 17 September 2009, 9-12 noon, Meeting Room I, Darwin City Council.

Meeting closed 12 noon, 7 July 2009.

**Action Sheet**  
**Meeting 31, 7 July 2009**

<b>Agenda Number</b>	<b>Agenda Item Title</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Status</b>
3	Discussion of draft Darwin Harbour Strategy – DHAC	Project Coordinator to revise Glossary and circulate revision for DHAC approval within 72 hours.	KR	Before 07/10/09 meeting	Completed.
3	Discussion of draft Darwin Harbour Strategy – DHAC	DHAC approved the final, consensus draft and authorized its publication upon the acceptance of changes to the Glossary. Project Coordinator to provide Strategy to NRETAS Communications Office for reformatting and printing	KR	ASAP	Completed.
4	Presentation and Q&A on BHP Billiton's NT Transport Option for Olympic Dam Expansion – Anita Poddar	DHAC appreciates BHP Billiton's ongoing engagement with the Committee.	DHAC		Completed
4	Presentation and Q&A on BHP Billiton's NT Transport Option for Olympic Dam Expansion – Anita Poddar	DHAC shall finalize its feedback to BHP Billiton by Friday, 7 August 2009 on BHP Billiton's draft EIS for the expansion of Olympic Dam and NT Transport Option.	DHAC, KR	Before 07/08/09	Complete.
5	Presentation on Underwater Heritage Issues in Darwin Harbour – Mr David Steinberg, NRETAS	DHAC provides in principle support for the creation of a DHAC subcommittee or working group to address underwater heritage issues in the Darwin Harbour region.	DHAC	-	Ongoing.
5	Presentation on Underwater	Project Coordinator to meet with	JC	-	Ongoing;

	Heritage Issues in Darwin Harbour – Mr David Steinberg, NRETAS	representatives from Heritage-NRETAS to create a draft Terms of Reference for a proposed underwater heritage DHAC subcommittee or working group			pending Heritage availability
5	Presentation on Underwater Heritage Issues in Darwin Harbour – Mr David Steinberg, NRETAS	Heritage representatives to meet with DHAC Chair and other interested members to discuss the draft Terms of Reference and the composition of the proposed underwater heritage DHAC subcommittee or working group	BS, JC	-	Ongoing; pending Heritage availability
6	Presentation of Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards 2009 – Ms Julia Fortune and Mr John Drewry, Aquatic Health – NRETAS	Project Coordinator to circulate electronic copy of the draft Report Cards to DHAC Members. DHAC to provide comment to Julia Fortune on the draft Report Cards by Friday, 17 July 2009	KR	Before 17/07/09 meeting	Completed.
6	Presentation of Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards 2009 – Ms Julia Fortune and Mr John Drewry, Aquatic Health – NRETAS	DHAC appreciates the hard work of the Aquatic Health team, and believes that the Darwin Harbour Region Report Cards will help to advance popular understanding of the Harbour and its systems	DHAC		Completed
7	Update on current Environmental Impact Assessment matters from Ms Lyn Allen, Executive Director – Environment, Heritage and The Arts, NRETAS	Project Coordinator to email Committee members the NRETAS link to the Tenax Energy EIS guidelines.	KR	Before 17.09.09 Meeting	Completed.

8	Acceptance of previous minutes, financial report and correspondence registers	Project Coordinator to circulate financial report, May action sheet and correspondence registers to DHAC members by email	KR	Before 10.07.09	Completed.
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