

UPDATE

Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management

May 2003

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Contact the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee on (08) 89994473 for more information.

"Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee Guiding the management of Darwin Harbour and its catchment - A community, stakeholder & government partnership"

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

1. "ADVISORY COMMITTEE HEARS COMMUNITY CONCERNS"

Community members outlined their concerns about the management of Darwin Harbour to the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee, in a series of Public Hearings held at Parliament House on April 7. Community concerns and values are being gathered by the advisory committee to assist in the development of the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management.

"For the past 4 months, the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee has been asking the community to give us their views on how Darwin Harbour should be managed" Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee Chairperson, John Bailey said. "We have received numerous submissions and comments to date, which express clearly that the community greatly values Darwin Harbour and is very concerned about its future. The Plan of Management must reflect the views of the community, and seeks to balance development of the harbour and protection of environmental health and recreational and cultural values."

Fourteen hearings were held between individual community members and organisations and the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee to further discuss community and stakeholder concerns and values. The Public Hearings represent the final event in the first Public Consultation Phase for the Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management. A second consultation phase will be held in August when the draft of the Plan of Management will be released.

Some of the key issues raised in the hearings included:

- Importance of the harbour to tourism in the region

- Maintaining the social and aesthetic value of the region
- Investigate need for statutory support to protect and maintain the values of Darwin Harbour and its catchment.
- Further research and monitoring required so that we can make sound management decisions
- Environmental impacts associated with activities such as clearing, dredging, industrial development, shipping and diffuse pollution
- Importance of recreational fishing
- Need to investigate a possible reserve system or park status
- Siting of developments in the harbour
- Conservation of dugongs, dolphins, turtles and other marine life imperative in the region
- Fossil fuel use and its contribution to Greenhouse contribution
- Need to investigate alternative energy forms such as solar in the region
- Cyclones and storm surge



2. Name change proposed for plan

Committee members are proposing to change the name of the Darwin Harbour Plan of Management to the Darwin Harbour *Regional* Plan of Management. This proposal reflects community input received in the first Public Consultation Phase. Members of the public highlighted the need for the committee and the plan to consider issues in the catchment and surrounding areas, as well as the harbour itself. It is hoped that the name change will reflect the broader scope of the plan and the committee.

OUR HARBOUR – VALUES AND USES

3. Summary of issues from Public Submissions

The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee received some 47 submissions and 25 pieces of correspondence during the first phase of consultation. The size of submissions varied greatly, ranging from one paragraph to several folders of information. Submissions acknowledged a number of issues from specific local issues to broader regional topics. Additionally, submissions highlighted a number of significant values and uses of the harbour and catchment.

Generally, the main areas of comment were:

- Development & Infrastructure (28 comments)
- Clearing & Land use (16 comments)
- Planning (15 comments)
- Catchment Management (13 comments)
- Industry (13 comments)
- Diversity & Conservation (12 comments)
- Tourism (10 comments)
- Extractive Industry (8 comments)
- Government Policy (8 comments)
- Water Quality (7 comments)
- Pollution & Pollution Control (7 comments)
- Process (7 comments)
- Safety/Risk (7 comments)
- Port Activities (5 comments)
- Recreation (5 comments)

- Indigenous & Cultural (4 comments)
- Population Pressure (4 comments)
- Landscape & Amenity (3 comments)
- Monitoring & Research (3 comments)
- Consultation Process (3 comments)
- Aquaculture (2 comments)
- Waste Management (2 comments)
- Sewerage (2 comments)
- Stormwater (2 comments)
- Community & Education (2 comments)
- Defence (2 comments)
- Coordination/Integration (1 comments)

Comments received covered a multitude of areas with various issues reflecting environmental, social and economic values and uses.



4. HARBOUR FACTS



Harbour boundary

The boundaries for the plan of management include Shoal Bay and the Howard River Catchment, with the boundary stretching between Charles Point and Gunn Point. For further details, see www.ipe.nt.gov.au.



People

The NT comprises approximately 17.5% of the land mass of Australia, but is inhabited by only 1% of Australia's population. Darwin, as the capital of the Northern Territory represents the smallest capital city of the least populated state/territory in the country. Approximately 210, 000 people live in the Northern Territory, with about 110,000 of these living in the Darwin region.



Tourism

Tourism is the Territory's second largest revenue earner, after the mining industry. It is the largest employer of Territorians. In 2001, visitors contributed \$973.5 million directly into the Territory economy. Including indirect effects, tourism was worth in excess of \$1.9 billion to the Territory. In 2001, the tourism industry employed nearly 8 000 Territorians directly. Including indirect employment, the tourism industry created jobs for 14 287 Territorians. There were more than 1.58 million visitors to the Territory in 2001.



Recreation

Darwin residents visit Darwin Harbour itself more than once per week, primarily for the purposes of relaxing, walking, fishing and boating. Other uses include birdwatching, swimming, sailing, scuba diving, canoeing, cultural activities and cycling. Areas around the harbour that are frequently visited for recreation purposes include Stokes Hill Wharf, beaches, foreshore parks, jetties/rocks, walking and cycle tracks, rivers and creeks, mangroves and reef areas.

Contact us....

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Or

Visit our web link from the Dept of Infrastructure,
Planning and Environment Website
<http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au>

5. Keeping You Informed

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee aims to keep the community and stakeholders informed about the plan of management and its progress. If you would like more information or to be kept up to date on the project please call (08) 8999 4473 or E-mail DarwinHarbourAdvisoryCommittee@nt.gov.au

6. Important Dates!

- August – Draft Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management to be released
- August and September – Public Consultation Phase 2
- November – Final Darwin Harbour Regional Plan of Management to be released