

> DRMAC



*Caring for the future of our Daly*

Daly River  
Management Advisory  
Committee (DRMAC)  
**Annual Report 2006-07**

© Daly River Management Advisory Committee

Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment  
and The Arts  
PO 496  
Palmerston NT 0831  
[www.nt.gov.au/drmac](http://www.nt.gov.au/drmac)

Published September 2007 by the Northern Territory  
Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts

ISSN 1835-1859

**Natural Resource Management**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Goyder Building  
25 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston

**Postal address** PO Box 30

Palmerston NT 0831

**Tel** 08 8999 3448

**Fax** 08 8999 4403

**Our ref** 2007/1295

The Hon Delia Lawrie MLA  
Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage  
Parliament House  
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Daly River Management Advisory Committee, I have pleasure in presenting the first Annual Report for the Committee for the year ended 30 June 2007.

This report is required under the Committee's Roles and Responsibilities.

Yours sincerely



JOHN CHILDS  
Chairman  
Daly River Management Advisory Committee

7 September 2007

## **Contents**

- The Daly River Management Advisory Committee in Brief
- Terms of Reference
- Committee Membership and Meetings
- Katherine Water Advisory Committee
- Achievements for the year
- Acknowledgements

## **The Daly River Management Advisory Committee in Brief**

The Northern Territory Government established the Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC) in 2006 to develop options for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources within the Daly River catchment. DRMAC was created to build on the work of the former Daly Region Community Reference Group, in particular, to follow up on the Group's recommendation to use an adaptive management approach to the Daly.

The goal of DRMAC is to promote the highest standards of management of land, water and other resources in the region so that the important values people associate with the Daly are protected.

DRMAC will advise on the development of an adaptive management decision-making framework, which will be used to balance the needs of development and conservation in the catchment. The major issues DRMAC has focused on using this approach are native vegetation clearing and water resource management.

Membership of DRMAC includes representatives from the traditional landowners, production, tourism, recreation and conservation sectors and government.

## Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for DRMAC are to assess and advise the Northern Territory Government on:

1. Visions for healthy communities in the Daly River catchment and/or its sub-catchments, based on sustainable development
2. Land and resource use options and conservation strategies for delivering on those visions
3. Resource use or conservation management issues of particular concern to local and regional communities
4. Quality and relevance of information and analysis used to support identification and implementation of preferred development options and to inform decisions
5. Critical scrutiny of estimates of costs and benefits of different land use and management options
6. Design and maintenance of systems for monitoring all important values
7. Specific development and/or conservation plans for the region
8. Identification and application of best practice in land and resource use and conservation management
9. Options for legislative change to support improved management of natural resources at the regional scale, including approaches to community engagement

Matters considered by DRMAC, without limiting the above, may include:

1. Proposals for orthodox agricultural development, presented as scenarios (potential land use plans) backed by estimates of costs and benefits
2. Proposals for improved practice for management of important resources, including water allocation and use, cropping or other cultivation, and native vegetation
3. The configuration and role of the protected lands system in regional development
4. Identification of measures (indicators) of land and resource condition that are relevant to both producers and managers of protected lands
5. Design and implementation of monitoring systems, including land condition, status of flora and fauna, water quality, water availability, and water use
6. Reviews of monitoring data and identification of effective responses to evidence of adverse change
7. Methods for improved management of lands set aside for conservation, and especially riparian and other buffers around important vegetation types
8. Processes and incentives for landholder involvement in conservation actions
9. Social issues raised by programs, plans or strategies for management of wildlife and conservation of biodiversity, including impacts on the Aboriginal customary economy
10. Commercial incentives for conservation of landscapes, communities and species, especially through sustainable tourism but including other sustainable use of natural resources
11. Management plans and programs for individual parks and reserves or other conservation assets, including essential habitats, threatened communities and species, and harvested communities and species
12. Principles and practice for inclusion in property management plans
13. Reviews of relevant legislation

## DRMAC Membership and Meetings

DRMAC consists of 13 members appointed by the Minister. Membership is for three years, and members can be reappointed.

### Membership of DRMAC as at 30 June 2007:

Mr John Childs	Chairman
Mr Dan Thomson	Represents non-Indigenous Landowners and the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
Mr John Eddy	Represents non-Indigenous landowners and the Northern Territory Horticultural Association
Ms Mona Liddy	Represents Indigenous landowners and the Daly Region Aboriginal Reference Group
Mr William Hewitt	Represents Indigenous landowners and the Daly Region Aboriginal Reference Group
Mr Gary Higgins	Represents the Northern Territory Tourism Industry and the Katherine Region Tourist Association
Mr Warren de With	Represents Recreation/Fishing interests and the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory
Dr Stuart Blanch	Represents Conservation interests and was nominated by the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory
Mr Bruce Sawyer	Government representative for Primary Industry
Mr Ian Lancaster	Government representative for Water Management
Mr John de Koning	Government representative for Conservation and Recreation
Mr Mark Meldrum	Government representative for Land Use Planning
Mr Joe Martin-Jard	Government representative for Regional Development Planning
Ms Darlene Lion	Executive Officer

**Change in Membership**

In December 2006, Mr Joe Martin-Jard replaced the Government representative for Regional Development Planning, Ms Linda Fazledeen.

**Meetings of the Committee held during 2006-07:**

Meeting	Date	Location
1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting	19 July 2006	Skycity Casino, Darwin
2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting	25 to 27 October 2006	Douglas Daly Research Farm, Douglas Daly
3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting	28 February to 2 March 2007	Knotts Crossing Resort, Katherine
4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	30 May to 1 June 2007	Naiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council Chambers, The Daly

## **Katherine Water Advisory Committee**

The Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage formed the Katherine Water Advisory Committee (KWAC) on 9 February 2007 as a sub-committee of the Daly River Management Advisory Committee (DRMAC).

KWAC is responsible for advising the Northern Territory Government, through DRMAC, on matters relating to the management of water resources within the Katherine Water Control District, and assisting in the development and review of the Katherine/Tindall Water Allocation Plan. This has included the determination of water allocations to the beneficial uses under the Northern Territory *Water Act*. KWAC has also focussed on recommendations for granting licences to take groundwater from the Katherine Water Control District and the conditions contained in such licences.

The work on the formation of a Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, within the Katherine Water Control District, was started by KWAC in 2007 and will continue in 2007-08.

KWAC membership includes the Katherine Mayor as Chair and members from a range of stakeholder groups including pastoral, indigenous, tourism and community. The first meeting of KWAC was held on 21 May 2007, and it will continue to meet monthly at the Katherine Town Council.

## **Achievements for the Year**

DRMAC's achievements for the year included:

### **Ministerial Advice**

DRMAC provided its first advice to the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage on land clearing. The supporting documents for implementing this advice, included the *Supplementary Land Clearing Guidelines for the Daly River Catchment 2007* and the *Adaptive Management Framework for Native Vegetation Clearing*.

The clearing guidelines and adaptive management framework were developed to help ensure that any further development in the region is sustainable, and environmental and cultural considerations are accounted for.

### **Katherine Water Advisory Committee**

The Katherine Water Advisory Committee was established in February 2007, as a sub-committee of DRMAC, to assist in the development and review of the Katherine/Tindall Water Allocation Plan.

### **Community Consultation**

As part of DRMAC's meetings, it visited properties and country in the Daly River catchment, consulted with representatives of key stakeholder groups and invited landowners and organisations to make presentations on matters of importance. Key organisations and the community were also consulted in the development of the adaptive management process.

### **Research in the Daly**

DRMAC contributed to the planning and conduct of major research projects through participating in project steering committees, and other consultative processes, used in research projects. Through this contribution, DRMAC aims to enhance research effectiveness and the productive adoption of research findings supported and undertaken by research organisations.

## **Acknowledgements**

DRMAC would like to express gratitude to the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group, the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory for producing reports to consider, the Katherine Water Allocation Committee and all individuals who committed their time and efforts towards meetings.

DRMAC would also like to thank staff of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts and the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines who provided information and assistance for the meetings.

With this ongoing support, DRMAC will continue to promote the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources within the Daly River catchment.