

DALY RIVER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING RECORD FOR
MEETING 4: 30 MAY – 1 JUNE 2007

The Daly

Nauiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council Chambers

Present

Committee Member	Committee Role
John Childs	Chair
Dan Thomson	Represent Non-Indigenous landowners and the NT Cattlemen's Association
John Ety (31 May – 1 June)	Represent Non-Indigenous landowners and the NT Horticultural Association
Gary Higgins	Represent Tourism and the Katherine Region Tourism Association
Mona Liddy	Represent Indigenous Landowners and the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group
William Hewitt	Represent Indigenous Landowners and the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group
Chris Makepeace Proxy for Warren de With	Represent Recreation/ Fishing interests and the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
Stuart Blanch	Represent Conservation interests and the Environment Centre of the NT
Joe Martin-Jard	Government Regional Development Planner
Bruce Sawyer	Government Primary Industries
Ian Lancaster	Government Water Manager
John de Koning (31 May – 1 June)	Government Conservation and Recreation Manager
Mark Meldrum	Government Land Use Planner
Darlene Lion	DRMAC Executive Officer

Apologies

Warren de With	Represent Recreation/ Fishing interests and the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
----------------	---

Presentations

Michael Douglas, Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge consortium, Charles Darwin University, attended the meeting for Agenda Item 4 to provide a presentation.

Brett Easton, Vegetation and Land Management, and Peter Whitehead, Senior Policy Unit, Department of Natural Resources Environment and the Arts (DNRETA), attended the meeting for Agenda Items 5.1 and 5.2 to provide a presentation.

Des Yinfoo, Water Resources Branch, DNRETA, attended the meeting for Agenda Item 6.1 to provide a presentation.

Day 1: 30 May 2007

From 10.30am to 4.30pm, DRMAC visited Nauiyu Community, Banyan Farm and waterways in The Daly and surrounding areas and talked with traditional owners and community representatives about land clearing and water issues.

Day 2: 31 May – 1 June 2007

- **Meeting at the Nauiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council Chambers**

1. Welcome

The Committee thanked the traditional owners and community representatives who gave up their time to talk to the Committee, including:

- Ms Betty Sullivan, President Nauiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council
- Mr Henk Rhee, CEO Nauiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council
- Mr Mark Casey of Daly River Community Police
- Mr Albert Myoung, Malak Malak Traditional Owner
- Mr Rob Lindsay on behalf of Mrs Biddy Lindsay, Malak Malak Traditional Owner
- Mr Wally & Mrs Kerri Draper of Banyan Farm
- Ms Joye Maddison, Wangamaty (Lower Daly) Landcare Group Inc.
- Mrs Val & Mr Harold Sinclair, Daly River Community Development Assoc

2. Previous Meeting

2.1 Meeting Record

The Meeting Record for Meeting 3 was accepted by DRMAC.

2.2 Action Sheet and progress on items

The Action Sheet for Meeting 3 was accepted. In relation to Agenda item 10.1 and the mailing out of the DRMAC brochure, the Committee noted that distribution of information about DRMAC was raised during the tour on Day 1.

Action

DRMAC requested that information about the Committee and its work continues to be distributed to individuals, organisations and communities in the Daly River Catchment.

3. Closed Discussion

As items discussed under this agenda item are confidential to the Committee, a record of the Closed Discussion is not included in this meeting record.

4. Presentation - TRaCK: a new research program with a focus on the Daly

Michael Douglas from the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge (TRaCK) research program at Charles Darwin University provided an overview of the TRaCK program and the work being conducted in the Daly. Michael talked about the ways TRaCK can work with DRMAC and the Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group and invited DRMAC to provide a coordination and consultation role for TRaCK work. As part of the consultation process, TRaCK is keen to convene a researchers' forum with DRMAC in August 2007, as outlined in the paper tabled for agenda item 9.2.

5. Land Clearing Issue

5.1 Presentation – Managing Native Vegetation in the NT

Brett Easton from Vegetation and Land Management, DNRETA, explained the regulatory and administrative processes associated with land clearing in the Northern Territory.

5.2 Report on Land Clearing Applications

A report on land clearing applications was tabled for information, including:

- A list of clearing applications as published on the NRETA website
- Information on recently cleared areas in Katherine, including the recently cleared area south of the Tindall Airforce Base.

DRMAC noted the report.

5.3 Land Clearing Impacts and Planning Options

A discussion paper on *Land Clearing Impacts and Planning Options* based on Owen's prices presentation at the previous DRMAC meeting was tabled for information. DRMAC noted the paper.

5.4 Draft Supplementary Land Clearing Guidelines for the Daly River Catchment 2007

At Meeting No. 3, on 28 February to 2 March 2007, DRMAC reviewed the first draft of the *Draft Supplementary Land Clearing Guidelines for the Daly River Catchment 2007* and requested a number of changes be made to them. The revised version of the draft Guidelines was tabled at the meeting for consideration.

Action

DRMAC requested changes to the *Draft Supplementary Land Clearing Guidelines for the Daly River Catchment 2007*.

5.5 Draft Adaptive Management Framework for Native Vegetation Clearing

At Meeting No. 3, on 28 February to 2 March 2007, DRMAC reviewed the first draft of the *Draft Adaptive Management Framework for Native Vegetation Clearing* and requested a number of changes be made to it. The revised version of the draft Adaptive Management Framework was tabled at the meeting for consideration.

Action

DRMAC requested changes to the *Draft Adaptive Management Framework for Native Vegetation Clearing*.

5.6 DRMAC Land Clearing Action Plan

John Childs tabled for consideration a draft briefing paper for presentation to the Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment. Members commented on a number of aspects of the paper and suggested changes.

There was also some discussion on issues not covered in the briefing that have been raised with the Committee through their consultation process, such as carbon trading and changes to the *Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act*. DRMAC requested NRETA prepare a separate issues paper for consideration at the next meeting.

Actions

DRMAC requested changes be made to the briefing paper for the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment. A copy of the final versions of the briefing paper, the Land Clearing Guidelines and Adaptive Management Framework presented to the Minister will be forwarded out of session to DRMAC members for information.

DRMAC requested NRETA prepare a separate issues paper for consideration at the next meeting. DRMAC members agreed to advise the Executive Officer of the issues they would like covered in the paper.

6. Water Management Issue

6.1 Presentation – Modelling the Daly Water Resources

Des Yinfoo from the Water Resources Branch, DNRETA, described the aquifer systems in the Daly Basin and the modelling of the ground and surface water systems of the Daly River Catchment.

6.2 Katherine Subregion Water Allocation Planning Update

An update on the Katherine Water Allocation Committee (KWAC) work plan was tabled for information.

Ian Lancaster advised the Committee:

- The KWAC has met 4 times and is meeting monthly.
- The KWAC has discussed beneficial uses. A major issue for the KWAC will be determining allocation to each beneficial use.
- The KWAC will be participating in decision-making training organised through the Department of Employment, Education and Training.
- The integrated model for the Daly will be used for scenario planning and as a decision-making tool.
- At the next KWAC meeting Anna Straton will provide a presentation on water trading and the Committee will consider triggers and rules for water zones.
- Concerns have been raised about security of water licences for irrigators. Ian indicated that this is one of the difficult issues that the KWAC will have to address.

The Committee were advised that work will start on developing a water allocation plan for the Ooloo aquifer. The Committee were asked to consider whether it would like to develop the plan or would prefer to form a water allocation committee to develop the plan.

For the Ooloo aquifer, there are 6 current licences and 9 pending licences that have been pending for some years. DRMAC was asked to consider whether to issue the pending licence applications.

Actions

The Ooloo water allocation planning process will be considered at the next meeting.

Ian Lancaster is to provide a briefing paper in relation to licences for the Ooloo aquifer.

6.3 Revised Water Management Issues Briefing Paper

A revised version of the Water Management Issues Briefing Paper, incorporating the changes requested at DRMAC meeting no.3 on 28 February to 2 March 2007, was tabled for consideration. Some gaps in relation to recycled water, wastewater charges and tourism impacts were noted.

Action

DRMAC requested that further information be included on recycled water, wastewater charges and tourism impacts and the updated pages be forwarded out of session to the Committee.

6.4 Water Management Action Plan

Discussion on action on water management relating to the Ooloo aquifer was addressed under agenda item 6.2. Due to time constraints, it was decided further action for progressing the water management issue will be discussed at future meetings.

7. Subdivision Issue

7.1 Subdivision Issues List

Due to time constraints, it was decided that the list of issues to be detailed in a subdivision briefing paper would be compiled out of session.

Action

Executive Officer to liaise out of session with DRMAC members in regards to the issues to be detailed in a subdivision briefing paper.

Subdivision briefing paper to be prepared for DRMAC meeting no. 5.

8. Reports/ Information Papers

8.1 Landscape Design for Maintaining Ecosystems Services in Tropical Agricultural Landscapes – Steering Committee Update

John Etty reported that there hasn't been any further meetings of the Steering Committee.

8.2 Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group Update

Mona Liddy advised that the Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG) met from 24 to 25 May 2007. Justine Yanner, Manager Land and Sea Management at the Northern Land Council facilitated the meeting. The ARG considered the draft DRMAC land clearing guidelines and adaptive management framework. Ian Lancaster provided a presentation on the KWAC and discussed the role of the ARG in contributing to the KWAC. Michael Douglas provided a presentation on TRaCK and discussed consultative processes. The next meeting of the ARG will be held 18-19 June in Katherine. As a result of the work load associated with acting as a reference group for a range of important initiatives, conducting meetings with many language groups as well as other ongoing business, the ARG is forwarding a proposal to the Northern Land Council to fund 2 positions to support the work of the Aboriginal Reference Group.

9. Communication

9.1 Proposal for DRMAC to act as a reference group for a TRaCK project

A proposal regarding DRMAC input into the TRaCK research project 'Valuing the Daly's Ecosystem Services' was tabled for consideration. DRMAC agreed that its preferred manner for providing input would be to nominate a couple of DRMAC members to participate in a project steering committee set up by the researchers.

Action

Executive Officer to advise Anna Straton of DRMAC's preference for providing input into the project 'Valuing the Daly's Ecosystem Services'.

9.2 DRMAC Researchers Forum

A proposal for a research forum was tabled for consideration. It was agreed that the proposed research forum would be worthwhile and that the forum would be held as part of the next DRMAC meeting. The focus will include reports from researchers and an analysis of land use scenarios which could be addressed by TRaCK. Attendance will be extended to other stakeholder groups in the Daly, such as other members of the ARG and the KWAC.

10. New Business

Bruce Sawyer advised that the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines are submitting a proposal for Watersmart Funding under the National Water Initiative regarding alternative irrigation approaches for the NT. If the proposal is funded, Bruce will ensure that DRMAC is kept up to date on project developments.

11. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next DRMAC meeting will be held in August 2007 in Darwin. The meeting will comprise a day for the Research Forum and a day for meeting to discuss ongoing business. If possible, DRMAC will also meet with the Minister on the meeting day.