

# Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday 16 September 2021  
**Time:** 9:00am – 1:00pm  
**Chair:** Karen Gibb, Charles Darwin University  
**Location:** 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Video Conference Room, Goyder Building, Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston  
**Secretariat:** Carmony Leso, Executive Officer – Committees (DEPWS)

**Attendees:** Alan Roe  
Claire Streten  
Emma Young – *Teams*  
Ian Niblock  
Jamie Carle – *Teams*  
Jared Sellwood – *Proxy*  
Jim Smith  
Leighton Randell – *Teams*  
Nigel Browne  
Nicole Anderson – *Proxy*  
Shar Molloy  
Territory Natural Resource Management  
Australian Institute of Marine Science  
City of Darwin  
Darwin Port  
INPEX  
Power and Water Corporation  
Sea Darwin  
Santos  
Larrakia Development Corporation  
Paspaley  
ECNT

**Guests:** Alaric Fisher  
Jake Maynard  
Jane Munday  
Jett Street  
Jo Robinson  
Nicole Conroy  
Nicole Anderson  
Simon Costanzo – *Teams*  
Simon Flowers – *Teams*  
Tracie Sanim  
Flora and Fauna Division, DEPWS  
Flora and Fauna Division, DEPWS  
True North Communication  
Sun Cable  
Sun Cable  
Capital Works, DIPL  
Paspaley  
Darwinian Consulting  
Capital Works, DIPL  
Marketing and Communications, DIPL

**Apologies** David Ciaravolo  
Sam Buchanan  
Sue McKinnon  
Wayne Sharp  
Amateur Fisherman’s Association  
Paspaley  
Landcare NT  
Power and Water Corporation

No.	Item	Action (e.g. Noting / Discussion / Decision)
	<b>Meeting opened</b>	The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee meeting was opened at 9:10am
1	<b>Welcome attendance and apologies</b>	Chairperson, Karen Gibb, opened the meeting and welcomed members. Apologies were noted from David Ciaravolo, Sam Buchanan, Sue McKinnon and Wayne Sharpe. Nicole Anderson attended as Sam’s Proxy and Jared attended as Wayne’s Proxy.

2	<b>Conflicts of Interest</b>	No conflicts were declared.
3	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting on 4 June 2021 were circulated to the Committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits.</p> <p>The minutes were accepted with no amendments.</p>
4	<b>Matters arising</b>	
4.1	<b>Darwin Harbour Integrated Reporting (DHIR) update and Launch</b>	<p>Simon Costanzo from Darwinian Consulting attended the meeting via Teams and provided an update on the Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card project and launch. The launch is scheduled for 9:00am on 13 October 2021 at the Museum and Art Gallery. The Report Card itself will be 12 pages long. There will also be a website associated with the Report Card. The first draft of the report card will be ready on 17 September which will be sent to the committee for feedback prior to the launch.</p> <p>The launch will have a welcome to country and speeches followed by a break over refreshments.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Simon asked the committee if there is anyone else who should be invited. Karen asked for a strong DHAC presence and advised that the invite was sent to all the people at the workshop but it hasn't gone out very broadly to Larrakia. Karen asked Nigel if it would be possible to get a list of names from the LDC. Simon advised that 13 October is also Clean Up Darwin Harbour day which is being led by Larrakia so there is an opportunity to promote that at the launch too.</i></p> <p><i>Shar advised people involved in the Clean Up Day are the same people who would attend the launch so attendance conflict might occur.</i></p> <p><i>Karen advised that the Minister will be unable to attend the launch so Jo Townsend, DEPWS CEO will attend.</i></p> <p><i>Alan advised that the TNRM Conference will be held a month after the Report Card launch and thought it would be a good opportunity to promote the Report Cards in that space. Shar suggested Alan email Simon the details of the conference.</i></p> <p><i>Karen suggested the committee might consider a budget to put to government for ongoing Report Cards. Part of this budget could include a salary for someone from the Larrakia Development Corporation to undertake the annual cultural values surveys required for the Report Card.</i></p> <p><i>Claire asked what social media there will be around the launch of the Report Card. Shar advised that whomever is posting about the Report Card will need to ensure the organisations involved are included in the post so they can share it. Simon advised that the CDU media team can assist in that space and the comms team for DEPWS. Emma advised that CoD can assist with any social media needs as well.</i></p> <p><i>Jared assumed PWC had been providing data to the Report Card through their various DH sediment programs associated with their waste discharge licence. so there are a lot of data that should be getting drawn on and used . Jared advised that he will ask whether PWC can provide these sediment data going forward. Jared advised that the sampling points cannot be changed but they can be used as a base.</i></p>

		<p><i>Action 1: Nigel to provide Karen with a list of stakeholders to invite to the DHIR Launch.</i></p> <p><i>Action 2: Alan to liaise with Simon about promoting the DHIR at the TNRM Conference.</i></p> <p><i>Action 3: Jared to liaise with PWC about data sharing.</i></p>
4.2	DHIMRCC Update	<p>Julia Fortune was an apology for the meeting but provided a written update for the committee.</p> <p>The previous DHIMRCC meeting was held on 28 July 2021. Simon attended the meeting and provided an update on the Report Cards and the proposed launch.</p> <p>The Darwin Harbour Symposium was also discussed at the meeting. The Symposium will be jointly between DHAC and the IMRCC and is schedule for July / August 2022. It was discussed having the Symposium more interactive and engaging.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Karen advised that anyone who has any suggestions for the Symposium to put them to herself, Claire, Ian or Julia.</i></p> <p><i>Shar suggested having an interactive / engaging on-site tour to connect people to the Harbour followed by more of a sit down symposium. Claire suggested doing something like Shar suggested the day before the Symposium.</i></p> <p><i>Claire noted that sessions and presentations would be related back to the Strategy. It was also discussed that there would be interactive workshops around water monitoring methods to see if one water monitoring approach and boundaries can be agreed upon for everyone to allow for better coordination among groups.</i></p> <p><i>Shar asked how the Symposium will be funded and organised. Karen advised that the government will fund a portion of it and sponsorships will also be sought. Claire advised that the organising committee was formed but it disbanded due to Covid. Claire asked Shar if she would be interested in being on the organising committee as a DHAC representative.</i></p> <p><i>Jim advised that next year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Darwin and suggested maybe a workshop around that from a heritage perspective.</i></p> <p><i>Karen advise that the museum is appointing a new head of science and suggested getting them on board with having a possible exhibition about Darwin Harbour. Claire suggested holding the Symposium during the Science week being held at the museum as a way to get school kids involved. Karen also suggested incorporating cultural knowledge around science and expressing it through art or other mediums.</i></p>
4.3	DEPWS Mangrove Retention Plan as a case study for DHAC	<p>Alaric Fisher, Executive Director, Flora and Fauna Division, attended the DHAC meeting and provided an update about DEPWS' Mangrove Retention Plan and the potential involvement for DHAC.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Claire asked if this approach can be used to assess ecological values more generally. Alaric advised that he envisages a management plan based on ecological values but also recognising other values such as cultural, recreational, social etc. He is keen to get feedback on how those other values can be integrated.</i></p>

		<p><i>Claire asked if the plan will include scenario modelling e.g. if part of the harbour is moved causing changes to hydrodynamics which will change the interaction with the sedimentation in the mangroves. Scenario modelling is possible..</i></p> <p><i>Shar asked how this project integrates with the strategic environmental assessment of middle arm and the mangroves in that area. Alaric advised that there is integration in the sense that this approach accommodates where and how much loss is acceptable from a whole of harbour scale.</i></p> <p><i>Shar asked what the scope is in terms of “whole of harbour”. Alaric advised that it is from to Charles Point to Gunn Point.</i></p> <p><i>Jim asked if the Dredging Management Plan as also integrated with this plan. Alaric advised that where possible interacting pressures will be accommodated.</i></p> <p><i>Alaric advised that this ecological phase 1 will be done this financial year. Dataset and a draft analysis approach will be ready to be workshopped in the next month or so. Alaric advised that DHAC members will be invited to participate in the workshop.</i></p> <p><i>Karen suggested DHAC monitors how we engage with this plan.</i></p> <p><i>Claire asked if this will be ahead or behind of the Middle Arm development assessment. Alaric advised that they conducted a trial using the Middle Arm mangroves to get their ideas working. Effectively they are going in parallel to one another.</i></p> <p><b>Action 4: Carmony to circulate the one page slide on the Mangrove Retention Plan to the committee.</b></p>
<p>4.4</p>	<p><b>DHAC Involvement in the Dredge Management Strategy Project</b></p>	<p>Claire and Ian reported back to the committee about their meeting with Craig Smith about DHACs involvement in the Dredge Management Strategy Project. Claire, Ian and Sam met with Craig Smith, Project Manager of the Ship Lift Project (DIPL), and Shane Dahlhelm, Project Director (DIPL).</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> <i>Ian advised that the Dredging Strategy needs to be endorsed by the EPA.</i></p> <p><i>Claire advised that a working group has been formed which only consists of NTG employees as they are trying to work out what the scope of the strategy is before including external stakeholders. Claire advised that they recommended a survey to engage with the stakeholders in the harbour and get feedback about what the strategy should include. Claire suggested inviting Craig to the next DHAC meeting to report back on the results from the survey and how they are going to address all the things raised.</i></p> <p><i>Karen asked if DIPL are aware of any previous jurisdictions that have done something similar that they can emulate. Claire advised that WA Marine Science would be a good starting point and QLD have strict dredging guidelines so she can recommend to DIPL to look at those.</i></p> <p><i>Ian indicated that any dredge management plan, including dredge spoils will have to deal with impact on the harbour, and what is going to happen to existing infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>Karen advised that DHAC needs to invite DIPL to meetings to provide updates to the committee.</i></p> <p><i>Jamie advised that he managed the major capital dredging program in Darwin Harbour for INPEX in 2013 – 2014, and he would like to be part of the working</i></p>

		<p>group. Claire advised that DIPL weren't keen to have any external stakeholders on the working group, it is going to stay internal for the time being.</p> <p>Karen asked who would set up the forum for people to register that their organisation is undertaking dredging. Claire advised that it would be the EPA as they are the ones who provide the approvals for the dredging programs. Claire advised that it was discussed a few times at the meeting but she got the impression that the strategy won't cover this register. This is something that DHAC will need to keep pushing for.</p> <p>Karen asked if it would be worth asking Craig Smith and someone from the EPA to engage in a discussion with DHAC. Claire recommended contacting Lisa Bradley from the Environment Division.</p> <p><b>Action 5:</b> Claire, Ian and Sam to invite Craig Smith to attend the next DHAC meeting to provide an update on the survey results and the scope of the strategy.</p> <p><b>Action 6:</b> Karen to ask Lisa Bradley about how they are engaging with the Dredge Management Strategy Project and would she be willing to talk to DHAC about how the EPA is planning to implement the strategy, how it will impact on their cumulative impact assessment and how they are going to engage with industry.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>New Business</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Cameras installed around Darwin Harbour</b>	No discussion held. David was an apology for the meeting.
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Biodiversity offset policy development</b>	<p>Jake Maynard, Policy Officer, Flora and Fauna Division, attended the DHAC meeting and provided the committee with a presentation about the Biodiversity offset policy development.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> Claire asked about project assessment and Jake advised that the NT EPA will assess the project if the development is via the Environment Protection Act. In the future if other Acts are prescribed under the framework then there might be different assessing agencies.</p> <p>Jim asked if the government has the resources to audit and follow up on a proponent to ensure they're doing what they say they are going to do. Jake advised that it will be implemented by the same team currently implementing conditions under the Environment Protection Act. The department recognises that they don't want the resources of the proponent or the government taken up by monitoring or auditing so they need to find an appropriate balance.</p> <p>Shar asked if during the environmental assessment process would there be a process where the assessment of the suitability of the offset for the project is open to public consultation. Alaric advised that the EPA has a very defined role for assessing projects and he is not sure how opening it up to public consultation would work.</p> <p>Claire asked what the marine offsets are. Jake advised that it focuses on the same model but with a more dynamic environment. It's still about the relationship between the data, the habitat, the key threats in the area and trying to come up with offsets that manage those key threats on a large scale. Alaric advised that a workshop was held specifically for marine offsets and that highlighted the additional challenges in the marine environment due to the porosity of data and understanding of the environment itself. What might be an appropriate offset in a marine environment, would be different on land.</p>

		<b>Action 7: Carmony to circulate the presentation on the Biodiversity Offset Policy Development to the committee.</b>
5.3	<b>Australia-ASEAN Power Link for the Sun Cable Project</b>	<p>Jett Street (Sun Cable), Jo Robinson (Sun Cable) and Jane Munday (True North Strategic Communication) attended the DHAC meeting and provided the committee with a presentation about the Australia-ASEAN Power Link (AAPowerLink) for the Sun Cable Project.</p> <p>The AAPowerLink will combine the world's largest solar farm and battery storage facility in the Northern Territory, with a 5,000 km transmission system, to supply Darwin, Singapore and Asian markets with reliable and competitively priced renewable electricity.</p> <p>Renewable electricity will be generated by a 17-20 GWp solar farm with approximately 36-42 GWh battery energy storage located near Elliott, NT. The electricity generated at the Solar / Storage facility will be transmitted 800km overhead to Darwin and then via a 4,200km undersea high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission network to Singapore.</p> <p>The project has received major project status with a Project Development Agreement with the government that sets out a roadmap for how they can achieve this with the obligation on Sun Cable to satisfy what the Territory requires which is what is guiding the approvals process and the strategy for the company.</p> <p>Sun Cable is seeking to lodge their Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) in quarter 4 of this year. They will be working with ECOz and Jane Munday from True North Strategic Communication to finalise the lodgement in December. There is a significant notice of variation which is due to the change in location from Middle Arm to Murrumujuk.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Shar asked when you say the cables are 50 - 200 metres apart, do you mean all 6 cables have to be that distance apart. Jo advised that they are seeking approval for 6 cables but the intention is not to construct 6 cables at once, it will be a 3 cable corridor and there will be between 50 and 200 metres between each cable. So there will be 200 metres between each cable - 2 x 200 metre corridors and with a 100 metre buffer on either side of those.</i></p> <p><i>Jim asked how the cables will be protected. Jo advised that some will be buried and some might be rock dumped but will depend on the ocean floor. However, where the cables leave the land sea joint, they will be buried. It's around the 20 metre mark it becomes possible that they don't need to be buried.</i></p> <p><i>Ian asked how the subsidy cables are protected by legislation. Jo advised that Sun Cable have to seek a permit that allows them to lay the cables. Jo advised that the subsidy cables are controlled by separate legislation and will have to answer that question offline.</i></p> <p><i>Leighton asked how Sun Cable will manage when the cable will cross gas pipelines or if it's running parallel to currents etc. Jet advised Sun Cable have an NDA with Santos, INPEX and other users and they will need to agree with them how those cross overs will work. They also have some of the best ocean engineers in the world working on all this stuff but they need to subsidy survey to be completed to land on the data to help inform some of these decisions around currents and so on. Jo advised that there are several crossings in the Australian Waters and once they reach Indonesia there is upwards of 70.</i></p>

		<p><i>Jim asked if Jett or Jo can share with the committee what the identified risks of the project are. Jo advised that when they identify fault they have to send a capable retrieval vessel. It's a manual process and the fault is told to them by the AI system. There is very little chance of faults happening in high traffic areas, it's more likely to happen off shore where the cable isn't buried. Avoiding key anchorage points is something they will de-risk as well.</i></p> <p><i>Shar noted that she assumes that at some point Sun Cable will be thinking about renewable energy into Middle Arm and asked if they will be diverting from Livingston directly to Middle Arm or will there be another way of getting it from Murrumujuk back to Middle Arm. Jett advised that it would have to be the latter because that is where the voltage source converters are.</i></p> <p><b>Action 8: Carmony to circulate the presentation on the Sun Cable Project to the committee.</b></p>
<p>5.4</p>	<p><b>Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct</b></p>	<p>Jane Munday (True North Strategic Communication), Tracie Sanim (DIPL), Nicole Conroy (DIPL) and Simon Flowers (DIPL) attended the DHAC meeting and provided the committee with a presentation about the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.</p> <p>Simon presented to the Committee on the progress of the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct. The Precinct is in the feasibility / planning phase and has been broken up into 4 key groupings”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Industry Planning</li> <li>2. Land Development</li> <li>3. Marine Development</li> <li>4. Environmental Studies</li> </ol> <p>The vision for the end of the planning phase is to have an Infrastructure Masterplan, a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Commercial Activation / Business Case for the development.</p> <p><i>Discussion: In response to Karen's request for clarification, Nicky advised that a strategic proposal will include the development program, the impact assessment studies which includes baseline plus impact assessment studies for water. It will also include an Environmental Management Framework so DIPL will need to understand what the thresholds are for impact on water, what the standards are and what the thresholds are. It will also include a validation and assurance framework so DIPL will need to develop a framework that includes how they are going to make sure the thresholds are maintained, or ensure their activities don't go beyond those thresholds. Nicky advised that what they are proposing is to have a management framework that will contain all of these elements and the governance of the precinct will include managing each proponent under the strategic proposal in accordance with frameworks that they set up and put to the regulator. Karen requested a session with Nicky around the strategic environmental proposal. Nicky advised that she would like to have a session and unpack it by environmental factor but they are not ready for that just yet.</i></p> <p><i>Nicky advised that when proponents seek approval from the Australian and NT Government, they will need to demonstrate that they can operate under the thresholds that have been set and demonstrate that to the environmental regulator and the governing body of Middle Arm. Claire asked about cumulative impacts and Nicky advised that cumulative impacts in the strategic proposal will require further work.</i></p>

Shar asked if having the Strategic Environmental Proposal with these thresholds will do away with the individual projects needing to do individual environmental assessments. Nicky advised that under the NT Environmental Protection Act there is an approval notice framework so if proponents get a strategic proposal approved by the Minister, they can apply for an approval notice. Shar asked if under the regulation, when there is an approval notice does that enable public input into that approval notice. Nicky advised that it has never been used in the NT and it is unclear how the public exhibition period works in the Act. Nicky suggested asking the NTEPA. Jane advised that Shar can raise it as a condition she would like to see as part of the public consultation.

Jim noted that renewable hydrogen is a contentious thing to put on a presentation about how you are going to address the future for middle arm as it is not green hydrogen or renewable. Simon advised that it is something that DIPL is working around and they are targeting that energy space and asking what the future is going to look like so the infrastructure master plan has this built in to ensure they have allowances for those future energy prospects in the 20 - 50 year horizon.

Jane Munday presented to the committee on the Strategic Social Impact Assessment of Middle Arm.

**Discussion:** Alan asked if DIPL can meaningfully consult with people and undertake a social impact assessment without them knowing what industries are likely to be involved and what the impacts might be. Shar noted that those potential proponents might only need 60 days to be approved which is concerning as there would not be time for community input. Shar noted that DHAC has had presentations about various projects and developments happening across the harbour which will lead to impacts and feelings from the community about the developments. Shar noted that people's experiences aren't going to be limited to just middle arm but rather the harbour as a whole. Jane advised that that is her scope - to look at accumulatively impacts in the whole harbour.

Karen advised that the proposed approach on slide 23 of the presentation would make a good framework for the committee on how they will engage with the Strategic Social Impact Assessment of Middle Arm. Jane advised that she would like to undertake a workshop with the committee and use a deliberative approach. Jane advised that two key players that aren't on the committee that she would like to be involved in this process is the Palmerston and Litchfield Council. Jane advised that she is conscious of the work that DHAC has already done and doesn't want to duplicate it but rather work with the committee and see what work she can do that would complement what the committee has already done. Claire suggested that a good way to start would be to look at the mapping that has already been done through the Integrated Report Card and then do a gap analysis for DHAC. That way it builds on what has already been done and relating it back to DHAC activities and also relating it back to the Strategy.

Karen recapped and advised that DHAC will be interested in a workshop that reviews the values and indicators in the report card (arising from the 2 stakeholder workshops) and then have a gap analysis done by Jane.

Shar asked what the proposed timing is for the Social Impact Assessment. Jane advised that she is currently working on a scoping document which will include



		<p>issues and a recommended approach which will go to government for approval and then a referral will be submitted in February followed by a strategic assessment by the end of next year. Engagement should start in March 2022.</p> <p><b>Action 9: Carmony to circulate the presentation on Middle Arm to the committee.</b></p>
6	<b>New DHAC Chair</b>	<p>Karen advised the committee that she will be stepping down as chair of DHAC but staying on the committee, and sought nominations from the members.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> Karen Gibb put forward a nomination for Dr Claire Streten to take over as the committee's chairperson. The committee members present advised that they endorse the nomination for Claire as the replacement DHAC chair. Claire advised that she will need to seek approval from AIMS before accepting the position. Emma Young advised they if Claire is unable to accept the position as chair, she will be happy to nominate.</p>
7	<b>Communique</b>	No discussion held.
8	<b>Other Business</b>	No other business.
9	<b>Correspondence</b>	
9.1	<b>Incoming</b>	
	<b>Ministers Response to the Communique</b>	The Ministers Response to Communique 12 from Meeting 14 was tabled for noting.
9.2	<b>Outgoing</b>	
	<b>Communique to the Minister</b>	Communique 12 from Meeting 14 was tabled for noting.
10	<b>Next meeting</b>	The next meeting will be held at the end of the year - late November / early December
	<b>Meeting closed</b>	The meeting concluded at 1:00pm

## Actions arising from the meeting

No.	Action	Action officer
1	Provide Karen with a list of stakeholders to invite to the DHIR Launch.	Nigel Browne
2	Liaise with Simon about promoting the DHIR at the TNRM Conference.	Alan Roe
3	Liaise with PWC about sharing their data.	Jared Sellwood
4	Circulate the one page slide on the Mangrove Retention Plan to the committee.	Carmony Leso
5	Invite Craig Smith to attend the next DHAC meeting to provide an update on the survey results and the scope of the strategy.	Claire, Ian and Sam

No.	Action	Action officer
6	Email Lisa Bradley about how the EPA is engaging with the Dredge Management Strategy Project and would she be willing to talk to DHAC about how the EPA is planning to implement the strategy, how it will impact on their cumulative impact assessment and how they are going to engage with industry.	Karen Gibb
7	Circulate the presentation on the Biodiversity Offset Policy Development to the committee.	Carmony Leso
8	Circulate the presentation on the Sun Cable Project to the committee.	Carmony Leso
9	Circulate the presentation on Middle Arm to the committee.	Carmony Leso