

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 22 June 2022
Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm
Chair: Dr Claire Streten, Australian Institute of Marine Science
Location: 1st Floor Northern Australia Conference Room, 76 Esplanade, Darwin
Secretariat: Carmony Leso, Executive Officer – Committees (DEPWS)

Attendees: Jamie Carle - *Teams*
Kirsty Howie - *Proxy*
Leighton Randell - *Teams*
Sam Buchanan
Wayne Sharp - *Teams*
INPEX
ECNT
Santos
Paspaley
Power and Water Corporation

Guests: Alaric Fisher
Lynda Radke
Michael Marren - *Teams*
Lachlan MacArthur - *Teams*
Stefan Hladenki
Leslie Pyne
Erin Richardson
Saijie Singh - *Teams*
Joe Sheridan - *Teams*
Flora and Fauna Division, DEPWS
Flora and Fauna Division, DEPWS
Santos
Santos
Sun Cable
Sun Cable
Sun Cable
Sun Cable
Sun Cable

Apologies Alan Roe
David Ciaravolo
Ian Niblock
Jim Smith
Karen Gibb
Shar Molloy
Territory Natural Resource Management
Amateur Fisherman's Association
Darwin Port
Sea of Darwin
Charles Darwin University
Environment Centre NT

No.	Item	Action (e.g. Noting / Discussion / Decision)
	Meeting opened	The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 9:00am
1	Welcome attendance and apologies	Chairperson, Dr Claire Streten, opened the meeting and welcomed members. Apologies were noted from Alan Roe, David Ciaravolo, Ian Niblock, Jim Smith, Karen Gibb and Shar Molloy.
2	Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts were declared.
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting on 17 March 2022 were circulated to the Committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits. The minutes were accepted with no amendments.

Actions arising from the previous meetings			
No.	Action	Action Officer	Status / Update
1	Liaise with PWC about sharing their data.	Jared Sellwood	Complete
2	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.	Carmony Leso	Ongoing Lisa will provide an update at the DHAC meeting in August
3	Organise for Simon Costanzo to provide a summary to the committee on the DHIRC Gap Analysis	Karen Gibb	
4	Liaise with Simon Costanzo about acting as the financial backing for the DHIRC Project.	Karen Gibb	Complete
5	Present a learnings report to DHAC on the DHIRC Project.	Simon Costanzo	Cancelled
6	Liaise with Simon Flowers to lock in a date for the workshop between DIPL and DHAC on the draft Dredge Management Strategy	Carmony Leso	Pending
7	Carmony to organise for Santos to present to the DHAC meeting on the Carbon Capture and Storage Project.	Carmony Leso	In progress Santos scheduled to present on the Carbon Capture and Storage Project at DHACs August meeting.
8	Carmony to organise for Santos to provide a response to Claire's question out of session.	Carmony Leso	Outstanding Email sent to Michael Murren, response pending
9	Follow up on a new Larrakia Development Corporation representative and a new Landcare NT representative.	Claire Streten and Carmony Leso	In progress No capacity for Landcare NT to provide representative. Larrakia representative is pending
10	Report back to the committee about the expert working group to oversee the social, cultural and economic research for a Strategic Social Impact Assessment for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.	David Ciaravolo and Shar Molloy	In progress
11	Send out the Strategic Environmental Assessment referral for Middle Arm and the EIS for Suncable to the committee.	Shar Molloy	Complete
4	Matters arising		

4.1	Darwin Harbour Integrated Reporting (DHIR) going forward	<p>The DHIRC Master Plan Proposal provided by Simon Costanzo was tabled and the meeting for feedback and discussion.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Claire advised that in terms of the financial body for the DHIRC it was suggested that Territory Natural Resource Management (TRNM) take on that role. This has now been changed to Charles Darwin University (CDU).</i></p> <p><i>Sam noted that there are indicators for values that seem to be low resolution i.e. economic and commercial values which are summarised by jobs and tourism which is a narrow way of looking at commercial outcomes of the Harbour. From the gas side, the number of ship movements, or harbour movements, or commercial movements would be an indicator of activity otherwise the report card looks to be viewing the harbour from a select range of values and is not necessarily representative of what the report card should be indicating. Claire asked if Leighton could provide insight on this. Leighton reported that he thought the issue was getting the data from Darwin Port.</i></p> <p><i>Sam noted that in terms of funding, the main responsible entity using the DHIRC would be NT Government. Alaric advised that DEPWS contributes a lot in terms of the data sets that go into the DHIRC. Claire noted that if the DHIRC had stronger economic indicators then you could go to industry and get them to support that side of the report card. Claire noted that the funding required isn't to improve the indicators, it is to re do the report card to the current standard.</i></p> <p><i>The present members agreed to support the DHIRC going forward.</i></p> <p><i>It was suggested that a full report card could occur bi-annually and a condensed version could occur in-between.</i></p> <p><i>It was determined that an out of session meeting will be held in July to discuss the DHIRC going forward.</i></p> <p>Action: Carmony to arrange an Out of Session meeting for DHAC in July to discuss the DHIRC.</p>
4.2	DHIMR-CC Update	<p>Julia Fortune provided a brief update on the DHIMR-CC which was tabled at the meeting by Claire Streten for noting / discussion.</p> <p>The DHIMR-CC last met on 25 May 2022. The DHIMR-CC discussed the derived site locations for the proposed PFAS survey of marine sediments in Darwin Harbour. Lynda Radke (DEPWS) presented the proposed approach in line with the current Sediment Quality Monitoring Program. This work will be the first study of PFAS in marine sediments beyond known hotspots in the region and will help determine the need to include PFAS in the long-term monitoring program. DHIMR-CC remains an important 'sounding board' for long-term monitoring and an opportunity for local stakeholders to be involved and to share data and information. Sampling will commence in the next financial year supported by the IMMRRP program.</p> <p>The voluntary request for stakeholder contribution to water quality data for the 2021 reporting year was called. Data is typically collated and aggregated with DEPWS datasets and complete by Feb-March 2022 for WQI derivation. Shared data allows the report card to extend its spatial coverage and resolution. The generation of the WQI for 2021 reporting purposes is now complete with the DEPWS website to be updated by June 30. Products from this will be provided to the DHIR as requested.</p> <p>Data centralisation was discussed by members acknowledging joint interest and the increasing number of projects/development in the region to</p>

		commence in the near future. Similarly, a number of strategies have highlighted this gap. DHIMR-CC committed to continue to work with agencies and stakeholders to explore and identify opportunities to bring data together, examine archival systems and access.
5	New Business	
5.1	Australia-Asia PowerLink (AAPowerLink) update	<p>Stefan Hladenki, Leslie Pyne, Erin Richardson, Saijie Singh and Joe Sheridan from Sun Cable attended the meeting and provided an update on the Committee about the Australia-Asia PowerLink (AAPowerLink) Project.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Claire asked if any assessments have been undertaken around the burying of the cable near the beach in the event of higher coastal erosion. The question was taken on notice.</i></p> <p><i>Kirsty asked about the public's ability to address the components of the plans that are unclear. She understands some of them will be addressed as part of the EIS supplement. Jo advised that there are some key information gaps in the EIS but Sun Cable sat down with the EPA and bounced methodology off them and they will work with Sun Cable to ensure the project is executed appropriately. Happy to sit down further after that point to discuss any concerns. Alaric advised that the process under the new act is that the EIS goes out for public comment as well.</i></p>
5.2	Santos Offshore Barossa Project	<p>Michael Murren and Lachlan MacArthur from Santos attended the meeting and provided an update to the Committee about the Santos Offshore Barossa Project.</p> <p>NTEPA has given Santos an assessment level of Supplementary Environmental Report (SER) which they are preparing. The NTEPA has published their Notice of Decision and Statement of Reasons outlining the requirements for an SER and has put the public government submissions on the website. The key factors that the NTEPA want to see in the SER are environmental quality, Marine invest systems and atmospheric processes. The SER will be provided along with some draft environmental management plans and supporting technical studies. This will be submitted in quarter 3. The NTEP Act assessment is being undertaken by Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment and the decision (controlled action or not) will determine whether further assessment is required.</p> <p>There are some additional approvals required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAPA certification, which is in progress. • A Maritime Archaeologist has done a desktop assessment of the Pipeline route. If there are any requirements to disturb or move any items of maritime heritage significance clearance will need to be sought for that through the NT Heritage Branch. • A Waste Discharge Licence which is associated with the Dredging Operation will be informed by the Dredging Management Plan. • A Pipeline Licence through DITT, Energy Division. • EMPs will go to the NTEPA and pipeline regulations will need to be approved by DITT Energy Division. • Development consent and a licence for dredging activities and spoil disposal will need to be sought from DIPL.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permits will also need to be sought from Fisheries in case of disturbances to aquatic life and habitats. <p>A number of studies and management plans are being progressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial baseline assessment of the pipeline was undertaken in November 2021 with some of the information being put forward in the initial referral which looked at water quality, sediment quality and habitat surveys. • An Archaeologist assessment of the pipeline route has been received. A combined heritage survey has also been received which will inform how Santos uses heritage information in their SER and will also inform the Maritime Archaeologist's report. • The trenching program is finalised but Santos are still waiting to confirmation what thresholds to use. • Underwater Noise Modelling is underway. • Treated seawater discharge modelling has been undertaken. • A desktop turtle lining impact assessment has been undertaken, looking at the nesting beaches to get an idea of the importance of these beaches on a regional scale and what the likely impacts of lighting will be. • A consultant is currently work on the EMPs. • The AIMS 2021 habitat modelling that has been done for Darwin Harbour has been incorporated into the project.
<p>5.3</p>	<p>Proposed PFAS Sampling in Darwin Harbour</p>	<p>Lynda Radke, Senior Estuarine Scientist, from Flora and Fauna (DEPWS) attended the DHAC meeting and presented on the integrated marine monitoring and research program (IMMRP) and the sediment monitoring program that sits in it. The IMMRP is a 40 year program that sits under the Icthus project voluntary offsets agreement between NTG and INPEX. They are currently in year 8 and are transitioning from a phase of pilot project to the full blown monitoring.</p> <p>There are 4 expected outcomes which are: increase confidence in the management of Darwin Harbour; better understand some of the influences on the Harbours condition; to provide evidence based assessments change; and increase the knowledge base for monitoring.</p> <p>There are 4 sub-programs for sediment, habitat, pressure and water quality monitoring. With the exception of the water quality monitoring, INPEX funds monitoring programs within each of the programs. The water quality monitoring is done by the department.</p> <p>The PFAS monitoring will sit under the benthic sediment monitoring. The PFAS monitoring will be a surveillance monitoring program. It is aimed at looking at long term changes caused by wide scale human activities.</p> <p>INPEX has a compliance monitoring program that sits outside of the IMMRP, but the two are integrated where possible. The monitoring will have a tiered structure that will reflect the frequencies and extent of the monitoring.</p> <p>Once the monitoring program is up and running there will be a monitoring report which will report on the findings for each year.</p>

6	Other Business	
6.1	<p>Update from DEPWS on the department's priority projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangrove Retention Plan; • Waste Discharge Strategy; and • Dredge Management Plan 	<p>Alaric Fisher, Executive Director, Flora and Fauna Division, attended the DHAC meeting and provided an update about the department's priority projects.</p> <p>Mangrove Retention Plan</p> <p>Alaric reported that the Mangrove Retention Plan is being developed using the most available data, particularly the high resolution mapping that is being done in Darwin Harbour. Vales will be assigned to mangrove communities to work out if a proportion of the mangroves is lost, which are the most irreplaceable and should be protected. Alaric advised that this is ready to be presented to DHAC out of session in the form of a workshop.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Claire reported that Benjamin Brown at CDU has worked in Indonesia for 20 years on Mangrove Restoration and Blue Carbon. His PHD looked at the economic, social and cultural values of Mangroves. Claire suggested Alaric meet with Benjamin to discuss the Mangrove Retention Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Action: Carmony to organise an out of session workshop with DHAC and Alaric Fisher to discuss the Mangrove Retention Plan.</i></p> <p>Waste Discharge Strategy</p> <p>Alaric reported that the purpose of this is to examine the opportunity for gradually developing a more sophisticated approach to Waste Discharge into the harbour which takes more account of the accumulative effects. At the moment discharge is regulated on the basis of individual discharges meeting water quality thresholds. But it will eventually reach a point where the total loads of contaminants going into the harbour from multiple inputs will need to be looked at. A Framework has been set up to work towards this. This has been setup in the departments Environment Division.</p> <p>Alaric advised that he would like to organise an out of session workshop with DHAC to go over the strategy.</p> <p><i>Action: Carmony to organise an out of session workshop with DHAC and Alaric Fisher to discuss the Waste Discharge Strategy.</i></p> <p>Dredge Management Strategy</p> <p>Alaric reported that there are multiple dredging activities in the harbour which will continue into the future. Some of these activities have significant dredge requirements. The EPA has expressed concerns about the accumulative impacts in the longer term. The best way to address this is to develop a strategy for the harbour as a whole which sets a Framework for how dredging is managed and monitor its accumulative impacts.</p> <p>The strategy has multiple drivers such as DEPWS, DCMC and DIPL. There has been a lot of interagency discussions about the development of it.</p> <p>DHAC will continue to try and arrange an out of session workshop with Simon Flowers and Lisa Bradley to discuss the Dredge Management Strategy.</p> <p><i>Action: Carmony to organise an out of session workshop on the Dredge Management Strategy with Simon Flowers and Lisa Bradley.</i></p>
6.2	DHAC Strategy	Carried over to the next meeting.

7	Correspondence	
7.1	Incoming	
	Letter from NT Landcare Group	Noted.
7.2	Outgoing	
	Communique to the Minister	Noted.
8	Communique items	The following items will be included in the Communique to the Minister: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Card and sourcing funding • Workshop meetings with the department on the plans that are being developed.
9	Next meeting	The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25 August 2022.
	Meeting closed	The meeting concluded at 12:00pm

Actions arising from the meeting

No.	Action	Action officer
1	Arrange an Out of Session meeting for DHAC in July to discuss the DHIRC	Carmony Leso
2	Organise an out of session workshop with DHAC and Alaric Fisher to discuss the Mangrove Retention Plan.	Carmony Leso
3	Organise an out of session workshop with DHAC and Alaric Fisher to discuss the Waste Discharge Strategy.	Carmony Leso
4	Organise an out of session presentation with Simon Flowers and Lisa Bradley to discuss the Dredge Management Strategy.	Carmony Leso