

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday 30 March 2023
Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm
Chair: Dr Claire Streten, Australian Institute of Marine Science
Location: Australian Institute of Marine Science
23 Ellengowan Drive, Brinkin
Secretariat: Carmony Leso, Executive Officer – Committees (DEPWS)

Attendees: David Ciaravolo
Jamie Carle – *Teams*
Jim Smith
Nicole Anderson – *Proxy (Teams)*
Wayne Sharp – *Teams*
Amateur Fisherman’s Association
INPEX
Sea Darwin
Paspaley
Power and Water Corporation

Guests: Alaric Fisher
Emma Smith
Kathryn McFarlane – *Teams*
Nick Fewster – *Teams*
Flora and Fauna Division
City of Darwin
Santos
City of Darwin

Presenters Kylie Welch
Lachlan MacArthur – *Teams*
Laura Hanlan
Nicole Conroy
Simon Flowers
ECOz
Santos
DIPL
DIPL
DIPL

Apologies Ian Niblock
Karen Gibb
Kirsty Howie
Sam Buchanan
Darwin Port
Charles Darwin University
ECNT
Paspaley

No.	Item	Action (e.g. Noting / Discussion / Decision)
	Meeting opened	The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 8:45am
1	Welcome attendance and apologies	Chairperson, Dr Claire Streten, opened the meeting and welcomed members. Apologies were noted from Ian Niblock, Karen Gibb, Kirsty Howie and Sam Buchanan.
2	Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts were declared.
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting on 10 November 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	Follow up on a new Larrakia Development Corporation representative	Claire Streten and Carmony Leso	In progress
2	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	Complete It was suggested that DHAC see if the NTEPA will be happy to have regular meetings with a sub set of DHAC about the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct instead of supplying a formal submission. Action: Claire to contact the NTEPA about meeting with a subset of DHAC to discuss the Middle Arm Sustainable Precinct Development.
3	Organise an out of session workshop with DHAC and Alaric Fisher to discuss the Waste Discharge Strategy.	Carmony Leso	Pending
4	Organise a presentation with Simon Flowers and Lisa Bradley to discuss the Dredge Management Strategy.	Carmony Leso	Pending
5	Meet with Tracy Ward from the Department of Health to discuss their data around water and air quality.	Karen Gibb	In progress
6	Write a letter to Minister Moss and Minister Lawler regarding the DHIRC funding proposal	Claire Streten	Complete
7	Work with Nick Fewster to obtain a grant for the RCWAC priority areas for the DHIRC	Karen Gibb	In progress
8	Send out the information captured from the workshop on the Mangrove Retention Plan	Brydie Hill and Carmony Leso	Complete
9	Arrange another meeting with the DHAC members around the Mangrove Conservation Plan	Brydie Hill and Carmony Leso	In progress
10	Send out a meeting invite to DHAC for their meeting with Paul Vogel	Carmony Leso	Complete DHAC met with Paul Vogel on 9 December 2022
4	Matters arising		

4.1	Darwin Harbour Integrated Reporting (DHIR) going forward	<p>One off funding has been secured for this year's Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card (DHIRC). There is enough funding to develop the DHIRC as well as undertake additional work such as indicator development. There has also been a recent budget round and DEPWS has asked for some more money. This should be granted which will continue the report card work in the future.</p> <p>DHAC needs to determine if they want to continue using Simon Costanzo from Darwinian Consulting as the report card provider. Carmony will circulate an email to members about the consultant and membership on the DHIRC subgroup.</p> <p><i>Discussion: David asked if some of the report cards budget can be applied to Communication as that was lacking in 2021 and a lot of people didn't know about the report card.</i></p> <p><i>Action: Carmony to circulate an email to members seeking their endorsement to continue to use Simon Costanzo as the Consultant for the development of the DHIRC.</i></p>
5	DPD Project Supplementary Environmental Report	<p>Lachlan MacArthur from Santos attended the meeting to provide the Committee with an update on the DPD Project Supplementary Environmental Report. Lachlan's presentation will be circulated to the Committee.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Jim asked what the life of the Barossa Project is and what happens at the end. Lachlan advised that the expected Barossa field life is 20 years. Decommissioning depends on the regulatory environment.</i></p> <p><i>David asked if there is any updates with NOPSEMA (National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority) approvals and if that will impact on the timelines. Lachlan advised that Santos are working hard to go through the process with stakeholder consultation. They have had to tweak some of the scheduling but they can still meet the first gas requirement in 2025.</i></p>
6	Middle Arm Sustainable Precinct update	<p>Simon Flowers, Nicole Conroy, Lara Hanlon and Kylie Welch attended the meeting and provided an update to the committee about the Middle Arm Sustainable Precinct Development specifically around the components of the Middle Arm Master Plan that would impact on the Marine Environment as well as the associated actions and activities; an insight into the baseline data that has been collected; the legislative framework that is being used; and the ongoing work and next steps. A copy of the presentation will be circulated to the committee.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Jim asked how the fresh water industrial requirements are calculated. Nicole advised that they have created balanced scenarios which includes one of each industry likely to come to Middle Arm and a production rate has been set for each industry. The advice for how big to make those industries comes from industrial process consultants. Then the water supply for each industry is calculated from that.</i></p> <p><i>David asked what the rationale on the likely hood of the balanced scenario being the most likely scenario is. Simon advised that it is a scenario that sets the bar at a certain level. There is a fixed land area to put these industrial proponents on and it's looked at in the sense that these proponents may cannibalises more</i></p>

		<p>than their land allocation as well as cannibalise more emissions and / or impact elements and consume their neighbours proportional element. A what if assessment is undertaken based on this.</p> <p>David asked how the proponents get the land. Simon advised that LDC are the landlord and have drafted a Land Allocation Framework. The framework has been articulated to ensure the proponents meet the strategic intent of Middle Arm; are comfortable and knowledgeable of the conditions and limits of operating in the Middle Arm Precinct are all about; and they maximise their commitment to bringing their plant online and activating the economic element for the greater region in the shortest possible timeframe, not without safe guarding these values. Simon advised that it's a very robust process. Nicky advised that if the proponents fail to receive an approval notice approved then they will lose that land allocation.</p> <p>David asked how the potential impacts are capped if the amount of dredge spoil that is going to be dumped is unknown. Nicole advised that it's the upper limits of everything (waste water discharge, dredging, air emissions etc.,) but there is also still the pressure to try and minimise those limits.</p> <p>David noted that all types of substrate have value whether it's a soft sediment or hard coarse surface. Some would have more benefits than others. David asked if there is any work being done around relocating substrate that is being removed in specific areas. Nicole advised that their focus so far has been to quantify the loss and putting the material in a beneficial reuse location for the purpose for land development or off shore. They haven't looked into whether a portion of it could be taken for a different use. Simon advised that they will take it on notice.</p> <p>Claire asked if the change is sediment deposition in the harbour is being modelled and how it might affect other proponents. Nicole advised that Darwin Harbour wide modelling is being undertaken in order to understand the conditions across the harbour as well as within East Arm and the Elizabeth River. Claire asked if pre and post development modelling is being undertaken. Nicole advised that they are doing pre and post development modelling to the extent that they understand post development. The uncertainties will be identified with the post development modelling.</p> <p>David asked for clarification around the approach to the thresholds. Nicole advised that thresholds will be set as part of the Middle Arm Program that need to be met for salinity and temperature so every proponent will know what that threshold is. It will be an accumulative threshold because there will be a common user discharge pipeline.</p> <p>Claire asked why a site was chosen that is so restricted access wise. Simon advised that there was screening undertaken of various sites and the chosen site was the most adequate.</p> <p>Claire requested for a separate meeting to discuss the Social Impact Assessment Report with Jane Munday.</p> <p>Action: Carmony to arrange for DHAC to meet with Jane Munday to discuss the Social Impact Assessment Report.</p>
7	Other Business	
7.1	DHAC Strategy	No discussion held.

8	Correspondence	
8.1	Outgoing	
	Communique to the Minister	Noted.
9	Communique items	The following items will be included in the Communique to the Minister: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHIRC (special mention to Jo Townsend and Alaric Fisher securing the funding). • Middle Arm presentation
10	Next meeting	The next meeting will be held in June / July 2023
	Meeting closed	The meeting concluded at 12:00pm

Actions arising from the meeting

No.	Action	Action officer
1	Contact the NTEPA about meeting with a subset of DHAC to discuss the Middle Arm Sustainable Precinct Development.	Claire Streten
2	Circulate an email to members seeking their endorsement to continue to use Simon Costanzo as the Consultant for the development of the DHIRC	Carmony Leso
3	Arrange for DHAC to meet with Jane Munday to discuss the Social Impact Assessment Report.	Carmony Leso