

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday 4 June 2021
Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm
Chair: Karen Gibb, Charles Darwin University

Location: Arafura Meeting Room, NADO, 1st Floor
Development House, 76 Esplanade, Darwin

Secretariat: Carmony Leso, Executive Officer – Committees (DEPWS)

Attendees: Alan Roe
Claire Streten
David Ciaravolo
Emma Young
Ian Niblock
Jamie Carle
Kirsty Howie – *Proxy*
Leighton Randell
Sam Buchanan
Sue McKinnon
Wayne Sharpe

Territory Natural Resource Management
Australian Institute of Marine Science
Amateur Fisherman’s Association
City of Darwin
Darwin Port
INPEX
ECNT
Santos
Paspaley
Landcare NT
Power and Water Corporation

Guests: Alaric Fisher
Joanne Townsend
Julia Fortune
Nicole Conroy
Nicole Anderson
Simon Flowers
Terry O’Neil
Tracie Sanim

Flora and Fauna Division, DEPWS
CEO, DEPWS
Flora and Fauna, DEPWS
Capital Works, DIPL
Paspaley
Capital Works, DIPL
Capital Works, DIPL
Marketing and Communications, DIPL

Apologies Jim Smith
Nigel Browne
Shar Molloy

Sea Darwin
Larrakia Development Corporation
ECNT

No.	Item	Action (e.g. Noting / Discussion / Decision)
	Meeting opened	The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 9:05am
1	Welcome attendance and apologies	Chairperson, Karen Gibb, opened the meeting and welcomed members. Apologies were noted from Jim Smith, Nigel Browne and Shar Molloy.
2	Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts were declared.
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting on 3 December 2020 were circulated to the Committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits.

		The minutes were accepted with no amendments.
4	Matters arising	
4.1	Darwin Harbour Strategy	
4.1A	Implementation Part 1	<p>The DHAC seeks clarification around how the Committee plays into the implementation of the four DEPWS projects for Darwin Harbour, which was relayed in the Communique to the Minister following the DHAC meeting on 3 December 2020.</p> <p>Refer to item 4.1B.</p>
4.1B	DEPWS Priority Projects for Darwin Harbour	<p>Alaric Fisher, Executive Director, Flora and Fauna Division (DEPWS), presented to the Committee on the four DEPWS Priority Projects for Darwin Harbour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Monitoring and Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DEPWS Report Cards ○ Integrated Marine Monitoring and Research Program ○ Darwin Harbour Integrated Reporting • Mangrove Retention Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mangrove communities mapped at fine scale and well-studied • Dredge Management Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significant capital and maintenance dredging ○ Significant cumulative impacts ○ Advantages in strategic approach to assessment, management and monitoring ○ Large body of existing data to help inform the development • Waste Discharge Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requires an understanding of the total assimilative capacity of the Harbour ○ Consideration of the total pollutant loads and potential cumulative impacts ○ Development of site-specific water quality thresholds for a broad range of pollutants ○ Scoping framework to address this <p><i>Discussion: David Ciaravolo asked if Alaric had any information on the composition of the Dredging Strategy Working Group? Alaric advised that he would get back to the Committee about this.</i></p> <p><i>David noted that a lot of the focus of the Waste Management Strategy is around the total load cumulative impact. David advised that there is concerns that there is an unbalanced impact on current facility due to its location. David asked if this issue is being considered and looked into? Alaric advised that he would take it on board as feedback as it is still in the early stages of planning.</i></p> <p><i>Karen Gibb asked if the approach for point source would be different for diffuse, i.e. the run off from various areas? Alaric advised that in the early stages of a project there is a review which will look at what all the sources of pollutant into the harbour are and will highlight that and how it would be regulated.</i></p>

		<p>Wayne Sharp asked if the current regulation will be reviewed? Alaric advised that it has been recognised that a more sophisticated approach for the longer term as the current regulation is under old legislation.</p> <p>Claire Streten asked if there are going to be project plans for each of these projects and how will DEPWS interact with the DHAC in relation to this?</p> <p>Claire asked if reviews will be sourced outside of DEPWS for the Strategies and would recommendations from DHAC be considered? Alaric advised that DEPWS is gradually developing project plans and part of that will identify where external consultation and input is needed.</p> <p>Claire asked if the Project Reports outline how these projects are addressing the DHAC Strategy so there is a direct link between DEPWS Projects and what the Committee is doing.</p> <p>Ian commented that Mangrove Management Plan would be better than Mangrove Retention Plan. Darwin Port lost access to parts of various harbours because of Mangroves so thinks the plan needs a management component. Alaric advised that the intention is to retain a large percentage of the Mangroves in the Harbour and the values associated with them.</p> <p>Jamie offered to provide his expertise with helping to develop the strategies, particularly the dredging strategy given INPEX's Ichthys LNG Project capital dredging and monitoring experience, knowledge and learnings (16.1M m³) in Darwin Harbour and surrounding environments.</p> <p>Is it anticipated that the current report cards that are done would be integrated in the work done around monitoring or will they remain separate? Jo Townsend advised that there is some flexibility in the reporting to allow for the two processes to work together.</p> <p>Action 1: Carmony to circulate Alaric Fisher's presentation to the Committee.</p>
<p>4.1C</p>	<p>Implementation Part 2</p>	<p>The next steps in the implementation process may include a review process and an implementation plan. Karen opened the item up for discussion and input among members.</p> <p>Discussion: Claire suggested using one of the DEPWS priority projects as model, and link it to the DH Strategy through the projects project plan, and get feedback from DHAC. DEPWS can then see how the project addresses the specific outcomes and values of the DH Strategy. That could be one way the DHAC can develop an implementation plan and show how DHAC links into the overall process.</p> <p>Jo advised that the DEPWS projects identified have been deliberately selected to align with the DH Strategy. DEPWS is happy for these projects to be used as a framework for the implementation of the DH Strategy.</p> <p>Karen requested if DHAC could be included in the process of the three DEPWS projects (Mangrove Retention Plan, Dredge Management Strategy and the Waste Discharge Strategy). Alaric suggested testing it out with the Mangrove Retention Plan as it is best developed and has the shortest timeframe. Alaric advised that DEPWS will try their best to include DHAC in the Dredge Management but DEPWS isn't leading that project, Craig Smith, Project Manager, DCMC, is leading it and DIPL is involved too. Karen suggested some of the DHAC members approach Craig Smith to discuss DHAC involvement in the Dredge Management Project. Sam, Claire and Ian nominated to meet with Craig.</p>

		<p>Action 2: AF to propose how DHAC interacts with DEPWS using Mangrove Retention Plan as a case study.</p> <p>Action 3: AF to advise Craig Smith that DHAC wants to be on the Committee for the Dredge Management Strategy and provide briefing notes to DHAC.</p> <p>Action 4: Ian, Claire and Sam to arrange a meeting with Craig Smith (DCMC) to discuss DHAC involvement in the Dredge Management Strategy Project.</p> <p>KG noted that some of the issues that still need consideration are how DHAC brings in new projects and how the Committee can work with DEPWS on those. This will be more obvious after undertaking the case study with the Mangrove Retention Project. Another consideration is how to ensure Larrakia Peak bodies are involved. Going out to Communities and having consultations is very powerful, even if the ecosystem service idea around mangroves is a perfect example on how to ensure the Larrakia voice is heard.</p> <p>Jo asked if there was opportunity with the Aboriginal Ranger Grants and DHAC? AF advised that there would be lots of opportunity especially with the additional funding that have some from INPEX's Ichthys LNG Project offsets (\$24M over 22 years to fund conservation management of dugongs, cetaceans and marine matters of national environmental significance in the Top End). Jo noted that the funding wouldn't be available for consultation but for a process of better defining culture values or future protection.</p> <p>Kirsty asked how should DAHC be engaging with organisations such as Larrakia when there is no native title determination in Darwin Harbour? And how would the Committee and / or DEPWS come up with model that is going to work?</p>
10:15am	Morning Tea	
4.2	Darwin Harbour Integrated Reporting (DHIR) update	A presentation from Simon Costanzo on the Darwin Harbour Integrated Reporting (DHIR), specifically in relation to the Indigenous Cultural Values, was presented to the Committee.
4.3	DHIMRCC Update	<p>Julia Fortune provided an update on the Darwin Harbour Integrated Reporting, Monitoring, and Coordination Committee (DHIMRCC). Julia advised that the Committee hasn't met since December 2020. Their next meeting will be in July 2021 and will tie in with the proposed DHIR Stakeholder Workshop.</p> <p>The proposed Darwin Harbour Symposium has been delayed until 2022.</p> <p>Julia presented to the Committee an update on the development of a Water Quality Index for Darwin Harbour.</p> <p>Action 5: Carmony to circulate Julia Fortune's presentation to the Committee.</p>
4.4	Report on DH Strategic Environmental Assessment including Middle Arm Strategic Environmental Assessment	<p>Simon Flowers – Project Director (DIPL), Terry O'Neil – Contractor (DIPL), Nicole Conroy - Environmental Scientist (DIPL), and Tracie Sanim – Communications Manager (DIPL), presented to the Committee about the DH Strategic Environmental Assessment including Middle Arm Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>Feedback forms to DHAC.</p> <p>Liaise with Tracie re touching base every few meetings.</p> <p>Discussion: Kirsty noted that the presentation raised some red flags. Kirsty asked what is it about this precinct that will be sustainable as it is not clear? DIPL advised that although they will undertake a Strategic Environmental</p>

		<p>Assessment, it will still be a requirement for individual proponents to seek environment clearance for their projects. Given the nature of some of the projects, the proponents will have to do a full Environmental Impact Statement for each site. DIPL advised that this precinct will have a governance structure and they are trying to inform that with feasibility plans.</p> <p>Kirsty noted that there is an ability to refer a strategic proposal and it has to be done by a proponent, Kirsty asked if that proponent will be DIPL? DIPL advised that yes, they will refer a plan, which is the Master Plan for the Precinct. Under the EP Act there is an Approval Notice, which means once a strategic proposal has received approval, proponents can go through an approval notice process where they demonstrate their compliance with the plan. Kirsty was very interested in the relationship between the Strategic Assessment and the Individual Assessments.</p> <p>Ian asked how the sustainable development of the precinct going to interface with the sustainable development of other parts of the port, the harbour and the Community? DIPL advised that the broad scale work being done in the broader harbour is going to help with that. DIPL have been looking at the global impacts of dredging in the harbour and the cumulative impacts of that. DIPL are also doing a harbour constraints mapping exercise so they understand what space is available for shipping and private corridors. There are lots of constraints – sacred sites, heritage festivals, defence grants etc. DIPL will also be undertaking a study looking into Marine Traffic for the broader harbour.</p> <p>DIPL will email some Stakeholder Feedback forms to the Committee.</p> <p>Jamie asked if there was a project timeline for the EIS and Strategic Assessment? DIPL advised that they plan to complete the EIS and submit the referral for strategic assessment by Q3/Q4 2023.</p> <p>Karen advised that she would like to be updated by DIPL every second meeting. DIPL advised that Tracie Sanim would be the best contact for future meetings.</p> <p>Action 6: Carmony to circulate DIPL’s presentation and the Stakeholder Feedback Form to the Committee.</p>
5	Communique	No discussion held.
6	Other Business	<p>David Ciaravolo advised that cameras have been installed around Darwin Harbour and he would like to discuss results of this study at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action 7: David Ciaravolo to discuss the Cameras installed around Darwin Harbour at the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>Jamie advised that he may be able to advise how the Ichthys LNG Project funded Ranger Grant Programs could link to the DH Strategy and Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card, in Q4 2021.</p> <p>Claire requested if someone from DEPWS could talk to DHAC about the development of Biodiversity Offsets. Jamie offered to assist DEPWS with presenting on any Ichthys LNG Project funded offset programs.</p> <p>Action 8: Karen to invite someone from DEPWS to present to the Committee on the development of Biodiversity Offsets.</p>
7	Correspondence	

7.1	Incoming	
	Ministers Response to the Communique	The Ministers Response to Communique 11 from Meeting 13 was tabled for noting.
	Incoming email from Craig Smith	The email from Craig Smith – Project Manager, Ship Lift Project Team (DCMC) was tabled for noting.
7.2	Outgoing	
	Communique to the Minister	Communique 11 from Meeting 13 was tabled for noting.
8	Next meeting	TBA
	Meeting closed	The meeting concluded at 12:00pm

Actions arising from the meeting

No.	Action	Action officer	Timeframe
1	Circulate Alaric Fisher's presentation to the Committee.	Carmony Leso	Prior to the next meeting
2	Propose how DHAC interacts with DEPWS using Mangrove Retention Plan as a case study.	Alaric Fisher	Prior to the next meeting
3	Advise Craig Smith that DHAC wants to be on the Committee for the Dredge Management Strategy and provide briefing notes to DHAC.	Alaric Fisher	Prior to the next meeting
4	Ian, Claire and Sam to arrange a meeting with Craig Smith (DCMC) to discuss DHAC involvement in the Dredge Management Strategy Project.	Ian, Claire and Sam	Prior to the next meeting
5	Circulate Julia Fortune's presentation to the Committee.	Carmony Leso	Prior to the next meeting
6	Circulate DIPL's presentation and the Stakeholder Feedback Form to the Committee.	Carmony Leso	Prior to the next meeting
7	Discuss the Cameras installed around Darwin Harbour at the next Committee meeting.	David Ciaravolo	Next meeting
8	Invite someone from DEPWS to present to the Committee on the development of Biodiversity Offsets.	Karen Gibb	Prior to the next meeting