

DARWIN HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE BULLETIN

ISSUE 3 | May 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the third issue of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC) Bulletin.

During 2018 DHAC established working groups to advance two work programs: 1) A 2019 Strategy for Darwin Harbour and 2) Darwin Harbour and Catchment Integrated Reporting.

The strategy is progressing well with the first draft nearing completion. It's envisaged the draft strategy will be submitted to the Minister early June. This draft builds on our framework developed in 2018 and provides a robust vision for the Darwin Harbour Region with clear guiding principles to underpin its stewardship. It articulates the need for a balance between sustainable development, a working harbour important to a range of cultural, recreational and economic values, and the protection and maintenance of healthy environments and ecosystems in the harbour and its catchment, now and into the future.

Working with partners we have progressed a framework for Darwin Harbour integrated reporting that will reflect the core values identified in the DH Strategy. Central to this is stakeholder engagement to foster ownership of the process and the indicators chosen for long term monitoring. We are currently working on securing funds to realise our vision for DH Integrated Reporting.

Regards Karen Gibb

DARWIN HARBOUR STRATEGY

DHAC is working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the delivery of a revised Darwin Harbour Strategy. The revised strategy will build on the previous document providing underpinning principles and guidance on the sustainable development of the Darwin region.

The strategy will be revised to ensure that it reflects the values held by the community, current issues and pressures facing the harbour with the aim of achieving the vision for the Darwin Harbour region, striking the balance between competing interests for development and protecting the regions natural resources presents a challenge for all Territorians. The development of guiding principles which underpin decision-making processes for the sustainable and integrated management of the region will help achieve the aspirations of all interests whilst safeguarding natural values.

It is important for us that all stakeholders are engaged through the process. Stakeholder and targeted consultation will soon commence as we develop the strategy with a draft document ready for public consultation in June 2019.

Darwin Harbour is revered for its rich and wide-ranging cultural, recreational, economic and environmental values. There are few tropical harbour cities in the world which maintain such a near-pristine condition and are a working port. Capturing a vision for the strategy which reflects our values is essential.

A Darwin Harbour Strategy document is important but any strategy also needs an implementation and action plan. DHAC will ensure that the Strategy sets the stage for an action plan and one key aspiration will be integrated reporting so we can assess the health of this incredible waterway.

NEW WEBSITE NOW LIVE!!

The committee has been working on the development of a new and improved website. The new website is more user friendly and allows the community to view meeting minutes, member profiles and register to receive regular bulletins to keep you informed on committee progress. You can view the website at <https://nt.gov.au/darwinharbour>



PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

The committee has welcomed presentations from various relevant organisations.

Some recent speakers have included:

Meeting 8 – 28 February 2019

- Bridgette Bellenger, Department of Chief Minister - Bridgette provided a presentation on the Darwin City Deal
- Ben Smith, Larrakia Rangers – Ben provided a presentation on the Marine Rangers Program.



Image credit: INPEX

DARWIN HARBOUR INTEGRATED REPORTING WORKSHOP

There has been significant stakeholder support for an integrated approach to reporting on the health of Darwin Harbour.

To maintain this momentum a prospectus has been developed to communicate the benefits of an integrated approach to reporting and the opportunities this affords to community, industry and government.

An Expression of Interest submitted to the Ian Potter Foundation for a grant to partially assist with the rollout of Darwin Harbour Integrated Reporting was successful and this has progressed to an invited application due June 4. Meetings with key Government agencies and stakeholders has commenced to secure the remaining funds.

A copy of the prospectus is available in our website.

Darwin Harbour Clean-up Event

The annual Darwin Harbour Clean-up event was in danger of cancellation but strong support from DHAC members to continue the clean-up has resulted in the Larakia Rangers agreeing to take carriage of the event (as host organisation), supported by Lyn Lambeth (former coordinator), with Larakia running the event on their own in subsequent years (with funding).

This is a great community event, placing Darwin Harbour centre stage in the media for a day and strengthening engagement across diverse groups.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Subscribe to our mailing list!
The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee aims to keep the community and stakeholders informed about the progress of the committee.

If you would like to be kept up to date, subscribe to our mailing list by emailing darwinharbour@nt.gov.au

E-Bulletins are a timely, cost effective, environmentally friendly way of keeping you up to date with the committee.



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