

DARWIN HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – MEETING 12

Date:	Thursday, 3 December 2020	Location:	Casuarina Blue 01.1.14, Charles, Darwin University, University Drive East, Brinkin
Time:	9:00am – 12:00pm		
Chair:	Professor Karen Gibb (KG), Charles Darwin University	Secretariat:	Anna Maxted (AM), A/Executive Officer - Committees
Attendees:	Nigel Browne (NB) Shar Molloy (SM) Alan Roe (AR) Sue McKinnon (SM) Jim Smith (JS) Dr Claire Streten (CS) Ian Niblock (IN) Skefos Tsoukalis (ST) Jade Leask (JL)	Larrakia Development Corporation Environment Centre NT Territory Natural Resource Management Landcare NT - Zoom Sea Darwin Australian Institute for Marine Science Darwin Port Power and Water – Zoom City of Darwin (proxy)	
Apologies:	Mark Robertson (MR) Sam Buchanan (SB) David Ciaravolo (DC)	INPEX Paspaley Amateur Fisherman's Association of the NT	
Guests:	Simon Costanzo (SC) Julia Fortune (JF) Josh Corbett (JC) Simon Cruickshank (SC) Craig Smith (CS) Jane Munday (JM)	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security INPEX Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet True North Strategic Communication	

Agenda No.	Agenda Item	Discussion / Decisions / Actions
	Meeting open	The DHAC meeting commenced at 9:10 am.
1.	Welcome, Attendance and Apologies	Chairperson, KG, opened the meeting and welcomed members to the 13 th meeting. Apologies were noted from MR, SB and DC.
2.	Conflicts of interest	No conflicts were declared.
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	Minutes of the previous meeting on 26 November 2019 were circulated to committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits. The minutes were accepted by the committee with no amendments.

		<p>The Chair reiterated the value of having JF as an ad hoc attendee at DHAC meetings (full or partial), with the DHIMRCC as a standing item on future agendas.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged Minister Lawler's visit at the last meeting, and the lengthy discussion on resourcing for the implementation of the Strategy.</p>
4.	Matters Arising	<p>4.1 Darwin Harbour Strategy</p> <p>The Chair spoke to an email from Jo Townsend, CEO Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS), on 27 November 2019 congratulating DHAC on the release of the Strategy (item 8.3). In this email Ms Townsend advises it is not possible to allocate a Project Officer to DHAC due to efficiencies, but the Department will continue to provide DHAC with assistance on a project by project basis. The email explains that DEPWS staff will attend DHAC, which the Chair noted is not occurring. This is important so a staff member has an understanding of the Strategy as a whole. Members agreed this will be raised in the Communiqué.</p> <p>The Chair noted the letter from the Minister (item 4.1.2) and the more detailed outline of four DENR projects (item 4.1.3):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrated Reporting for Darwin Harbour 2. Dredging Management Plan for Darwin Harbour 3. Mangrove Retention Plan for Darwin harbour 4. Waste Discharge Strategy <p>CS acknowledged these four projects are already planned for DEPWS so the question needs to be asked about what role does the Department envision for DHAC in these?</p> <p>SM spoke to item 4.1.4, feedback on Darwin Harbour Strategy from ECNT. Given her role in the Darwin Harbour Strategy Advisory Group (DHSAG), she understood that there was an intention to have both a Strategy and an Implementation plan. It was unfortunate the DHAC were unable to meet at the time of the Strategy's finalisation to discuss this. Whilst the above four-mentioned projects are important for Darwin Harbour they are not based on the Strategy and the DHAC's priorities.</p> <p>KG and CS agreed and CS indicated that while the projects are positive, as was discussed by the DHSAG, it would be helpful to collate all the work already being done in the Harbour that can then be reviewed through the lens of the Strategy to inform Implementation.</p> <p>CS suggested it would be helpful for a review of current monitoring programs to be conducted in order to uncover gaps and support future projects.</p> <p>JS agreed there is confusion about DHAC's role in relation to the above four-mentioned projects. KG suggested monitoring is also the role of the DHIMRCC.</p> <p>Members agreed DHAC needed to reevaluate its role in relation to projects and monitoring and to support this, Staff working on DH projects (including monitoring) should provide updates to DHAC, and DHAC can then report to the Minister with any feedback.</p>

		<p>KG suggested that the above discussion about DHAC's role be raised in the Communiqué. NB advised that Larrakia peak bodies and community leaders need to be engaged to support the planning, management and protection of Darwin Harbour.</p> <p>KS provided points for the Communiqué from the conversation including: DHAC's role in the four projects; through the filter of the DH Strategy a review of DH projects and monitoring best practice; and the need for report back to DHAC.</p> <p>CS raised the possibility of including Darwin Harbour Strategy goals as part of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). ST said that it is possible for DHAC to provide comment on ToR of environmental impact statements.</p> <p>4.2 Darwin Harbour Integrated reporting (DHIR) update</p> <p>The Chair introduced SC, the project leader on the Ian Potter Foundation funded project on the DHIR. The project also has funding through the NTG and CDU, and several other organisations. SC meets weekly with the team including JF from DEPWS. JF advised that there are specific indicators that are being developed and therefore a number of stakeholders that have been engaged including Brian Williams on the development of Indigenous values, and staff from the University. The Chair also welcomed JC from INEPX.</p> <p>SC began by introducing himself and the history of the DHIR project. A report card on water quality in Darwin harbour has existed since 2009. Thinking on the DHIR project started in 2015. In 2018 there was a successful bid for funding from the Ian Potter Foundation which the NTG matched and other partners contributed to. The report cards are being formed through discussions with a number of stakeholders. Stakeholder workshops were held in March 2020 to come up with values and indicators. Since this workshop there have been weekly meetings with each project team member assigned one or two of twelve values to investigate how these can be measured. SC emphasised that feedback is required on the work to date.</p> <p>SC described the indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean water – water quality index, sediment toxicants; • Healthy ecosystems and landscapes – catchment disturbance index, vegetation health, mangroves; • Biodiversity – dolphins, seagrass, dugongs, barramundi, mud crabs, coral, invasive species; • Indigenous values - spiritual and sacred sites, future generations and employment, and indigenous food security; • Management – DEPWS have their budget, KPIs and annual reports that show where Department have and have not met their target, need to see if these numbers can be provided for only the Darwin harbour region; • Jobs – unemployment rate compared to NT's targeted unemployment rate; • Lifestyles and recreation – Recreational Fishing Survey which includes number of people who fish, when and where they go, target species, catch rates and boat technology;
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5.	New Business	<p>5.1 Gunn Point Mapping the Future</p> <p>KG welcomed SC, DEPWS. SC introduced himself and his role as Project Manager of the Mapping the Future project. The project will run for 5 year and has \$10 million in funding. He explained the aim is to align areas with good land resources with their water availability and biodiversity assets to de-risk investment, promote economic activity and try to ensure sustainable development. The scope of the project is Gunn Point and Glyde Point. SC detailed the methodology for the land, water and biodiversity mapping, with water always a constraining factor. The data has enabled the project to identify areas of risk for groundwater use and biodiversity value. Based on the development potential map there is the possibility of developing another horticultural precinct. A marine and costal desktop analysis has also been completed looking at all of the studies that have been done before, what the missing information is and what would be required for government to assess. Key knowledge gaps include marine processes, seabed mapping and coastal biodiversity knowledge.</p> <p>The website provides a summary report, video and maps - https://denr.nt.gov.au/land-resource-management/development-opportunities/projects/gunn-point</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>ST raised the importance of providing safe drinking water in any of these areas, which is one of the issues in Gunn Point at the moment.</p> <p>IN noted both existing gas plants and the Darwin Port have expansion capability.</p> <p>NB advised the Aboriginal Area Protection Authority (AAPA) would be a good place to start for capturing heritage issues and sacred sites. SC acknowledged that whilst there was some engagement with AAPA early in the project the cultural layer is missing. He advised the Litchfield Development Plan that is currently being consulted on has some information on cultural assessments.</p> <p>SM raised some of the areas mapped are marked for conservation.</p> <p>5.2 Proposal for early dredging for Ship Lift Project</p> <p>KG welcomed CS, Ship Lift Project, and JM, who is undertaking the Social Impact Assessment for the Ship Lift.</p>

		<p>CS declared a conflict of interest, advising that AIMS is working on the environmental side of the Ship Lift Project.</p> <p>CS gave an overview of the project. There are currently two ship lifts in Darwin which will both be decommissioned by the time the new ship lift is operational. The final location has not yet been decided upon but the ship lift will service Border Force, Defence and the fishing, pearling and petroleum industries. The long term plan is to get services like this into East Arm. The project is part way through the EIS and very early stage procurement has started but won't be finalised until the EIS is completed. Dredging is required because vessels need to remain at berth at all times. In addition there will be reclaimed land but not all the sediment will be able to be used to reclaim the land. To manage this the Darwin Port dredge ponds will be used. There is currently a dredge and dredge spoil management plan with the EPA and this will involve community consultation. The EIS for final construction approvals is to be completed in Q3 2021 with works commencing in Q4 2021 and the ship lift to be operational in 2024.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i></p> <p><i>IN asked for hydrodynamic and sediment transport modelling to be provided to him. CS advised the point load on the ship lift is sufficient for tows and the winch power can be changed. How small a ship can be depends on what comes out when going to market. There is more information on the whole project at shiplift.nt.gov.au</i></p> <p><i>KG thanked CS for his presentation.</i></p> <p>5.3 Chair position and membership</p> <p>The Chair spoke to the DHAC's membership, advising that all memberships expired in June 2020.</p> <p>The Chair advised she would like to continue to be an active participant of DHAC and put more of her time into the DHIR project. CS suggested that it may be appropriate for the Chair to continue for 12 months to align the end of her time as Chair to when the report cards are released. The Chair agreed with this. The Communique will include this information, and the process for choosing a new Chair will begin in the middle of next year.</p> <p><i>Action: KG to send email to all current members asking if they would like to continue on with their membership, this will be added to the Communique.</i></p>
6.	Communique	<p>The Communique will be drafted and sent to members to advise on any additions. The Chair suggested points for the Communique will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Strategy including DHAC's role • Need for DIPL speakers on Strategic Environmental Assessment <p>The Chair suggested more time for workshopping ideas as a Committee next year.</p> <p>CS suggested next year DHAC should look at how they can act as an advisory group and position themselves to provide early feedback for Departments. The Chair said there might be an opportunity to ask the Minister if DHAC could be a resource for all Departments.</p>

		JS commented that there is a bigger problem of lack of resourcing. CS said that this issue means it is more important that DHAC comment on strategic assessments.
7.	Other Business	<p>SM spoke to tender documents for the environmental assessment of the Middle Arm area. The Darwin Harbour Strategy has an aim of a Strategic Environmental Assessment of Darwin harbour. Some members have talked to the NT EPA about the TNG Minerals Processing Plant. There has not been communication to DHAC on this plan for the Middle Arm area, and this is important for the Committee to understand.</p> <p>SM asked the Committee if they think DHAC should request a report on plans for Middle Arm Strategic Environmental Assessment. CS advised she had a conflict of interest. She recommends DHAC talk to DIPL as they are managing the project – or it may be preferable to ask Alaric Fisher, Executive Director, Flora and Fauna Division (DEPWS), to speak to DHAC.</p> <p>SM advised the new Environmental Protection Act there is a mechanism to assess impact strategically, and thinks this would be valuable for DHAC to understand.</p> <p><i>Action: Ask Alaric to present on the Strategic Environmental Assessment.</i></p>
8.	Correspondence In	<p>The incoming correspondence was tabled at the meeting for noting / discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 8.1 - Tourist operation of a noisy airboat with the Charles Darwin National Park • Item 8.2 - Ministerial Environment Statement • Item 8.3 - Darwin Harbour Strategy – Have Your Say Process • Item 8.4 - Fact Sheet on the Bayu-Undan to Darwin Pipeline Decommissioning and Preservation Environment Plan • Item 8.5 – Data from CSIRO Research Vessel Investigator Voyage • Item 8.6 - Bayu-Undan to Darwin Gas Export Pipeline Decommissioning and Preservation - Submittal of Environment Plan • Item 8.7 - Darwin Harbour marine exclusion zone - Larrakeyah Defence Precinct Redevelopment • Item 8.7.1 – Factsheet on Darwin Harbour marine exclusion zone - Larrakeyah Defence Precinct Redevelopment • Item 8.8 - Ship Lift Project Early Works information • Item 8.8.1 - Ship Lift Project letter to stakeholders • Item 8.8.2 - Ship Lift Project Early Works factsheet
9.	Correspondence Out	<p>The outgoing correspondence was tabled at the meeting for noting / discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 9.1 - DHAC Communique 27 November 2019
10.	Next meeting	The next meeting of DHAC will be mid-February 2021.
	Meeting closed	Meeting closed at 12:09 am.

Actions Arising from the Meeting

No.	Action	Action Officer	Timeframe
1	Circulate Simon Consatnzo's presentation and details, and the TERC report	Anna Maxted	Complete
2	Email to all current members asking if they would like to continue on with their membership, this will be added to the Communique	Karen Gibb	Complete
3	DIPL to be invited to present on the Strategic Environmental Assessment, to check with CS and SM on who to talk to	Karen Gibb	In Progress