

# RAPID CREEK WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES – MEETING 10

<b>Date:</b>	12 June 2019	<b>Location:</b>	Northern Australia Conference Room, 76 The Esplanade, Darwin
<b>Time:</b>	9:00 am – 11:00 am		
<b>Chair:</b>	Ian Lancaster	<b>Secretariat:</b>	Amy Cooper, DENR (Secretariat)
<b>Attendees:</b>	Prof. Karen Gibb Julia Schult Nick Fewster (proxy for IK) Dean McAdam Michael Christie (Proxy for LP) Andrew Arthur (Proxy for RK)		Charles Darwin University DENR (Water Resources Division) Darwin International Airport DTC (Parks and Wildlife) Rapid Creek Landcare Group Darwin City Council
<b>Apologies:</b>	Lisa Peters Ian Kew Robin Knox Timothy Moore Neal Adamson Graeme Finch Richard Fejo		Rapid Creek Landcare Group NT Airports City of Darwin Community Representative Department of Defence DIPL (Capital Works Division) Larrakia Nation

Agenda No.	Agenda Item	Action Required (e.g. information / discussion / decision)
	Meeting open	The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 9:00 am
1.	Welcome, Attendance and Apologies	<p>Chairperson, Ian Lancaster, opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the tenth meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Lisa Peters, Ian Kew and Robin Knox.</p> <p>Proxy's noted as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Andrew Arthur attended as a proxy for Robin Knox</li> <li>- Nick Fewster attended as a proxy for Ian Kew</li> <li>- Michael Christie attended as a proxy for Lisa Peters.</li> </ul> <p>IL introduced Courtney Canavan, who is a school based apprentice with DENR and attended the meeting as an observer.</p> <p>IL confirmed Richard Fejo is the new representative for Larrakia Nation. DENR is currently going through the process to have all members reinstated to the committee with Instrument of Appointments.</p>
2.	Conflicts of Interest	Nil.

3.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	<p>The minutes of previous meeting on 27 March 2019 were circulated to the committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits.</p> <p>The minutes were accepted.</p> <p>MOVED: Julia Schult</p> <p>CARRIED: Dean McAdam</p>						
4.	<b>Actions arising from the previous meeting 9 ( 27 March 2019)</b>							
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	Amy Cooper	<b>Other Business</b> Include integrated reporting as a standard Agenda item.	<b>Complete</b> Noted and added to next Agenda.
5.	<b>Detention Basin</b>	<p><b>Detention Basin</b></p> <p>Lisa Peters emailed Amy Cooper prior to the meeting seeking clarification around the ongoing maintenance of the new areas and surrounding bushland, and who will be responsible for the basin.</p> <p>Graeme Finch wasn't present at the meeting to provide an update.</p> <p>Karen Gibb asked if there had been any discussion around water recycling, and whether a risk register had been prepared.</p> <p>Ian Lancaster understands council will take responsibility of the land once completed.</p> <p>Ian Lancaster to contact Graeme Finch to obtain an update and feedback on committee concerns including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ongoing maintenance</li> <li>responsibility</li> <li>recycling water</li> </ul> <p>Risk Assessment Strategy.</p>	
6.	<b>Report on Activities within the Catchment</b>	<p><b>Michael Christie - Rapid Creek Landcare Group</b></p> <p>Michael tabled a report and provided a snap shot on current activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Weed and Fire Management</b> Michael advised RCLG is in partnership with Parks and Wildlife and the City of Darwin to undertake weed control and fuel reduction on their land. In the area now referred to as, the spit, there is no gamba grass and very little mission or buffel grass left. Other weeds are seasonal and controlled by hand pulling or herbicide spray. From the creek mouth to Trower Road along the western mangrove verge all large stands of coffee bush have been removed. Regular working bees are being conducted to cut and stump regrowth and to pull up new plants. This will need to be a regular long term exercise.</li> <li>➤ <b>Darwin Clay Target Club</b> While checking the weed situation on the crown land and Defence section behind the gun club lease Peter found what appears to be lead shot on open ground in the bush. It appears to have been washed out from the firing range and is only 200 metres from the creek. It was reported to the Pollution Hotline and the EPA have advised they have made contact with the club in the first instance and will follow up.</li> <li>➤ <b>Draft CoD Municipal Plan 2019/20</b> RCLG provided feedback to this draft plan focussing on the lack of acknowledgement of the significance of bushland in Rapid Creek and across the city, and a need for resources and strategic maintenance. Planning Scheme Amendment RCLG have made a submission to support City of Darwin's proposal to rezone Section 5249 and part of Section 4295 from Organised Recreation and Public Open Space to Conservation. In April 2018 RCLG were advised by DIPL that the PSA was on hold until the flood mitigation works were completed in case there were any changes to the boundaries required. These works have now been completed to the stage where any boundary changes can be identified.</li> </ul>	

**Karen Gibb – CDU**

As Chair of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee, Karen Gibb provided an update on the following;

➤ **Darwin Harbour Strategy**

The Darwin Harbour Strategy is progressing well and will be presented to the Minister before June 30.

➤ **Integrated Report Cards**

Karen advised DHAC is working in partnership with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and the Integration and Application Network University of Maryland Centre of Environmental Science to progress a framework for Darwin Harbour integrated reporting that will reflect the core values identified in the DH Strategy. Recently an application was submitted to the Ian Potter Foundation. If successful, the funding along with other party contributions will support an Integrated reporting Framework for Darwin Harbour. The workshops will be a great opportunity for organisations to commit data and provide input. DHAC will know if the application was successful within the next four months.

**Nick Fewster - Darwin International Airport (DIA)**

Nick advised he sent through DIA Fire and Weed Management Plans just before the meeting.

Nick advised DIA are undertaking ongoing management activities including pathway maintenance, weed management, watering of seedlings, and fence work.

Nick offered to provide a presentation on the 'Investigation into Allegations of Waste Mismanagement Practices by Air services Australia at Darwin International Airport' report at the next meeting.

*Action: AC to forward DIA Fire and Weed Management Plans to members for information.*

**Julia Schult – Aquatic Health Unit (DENR)**

Julia advised annual monitoring of water quality and macroinvertebrates has been completed. Fish sampling methods are still under development and trials are continuing. DENR have installed baited camera traps but unfortunately it didn't capture all species. Historic footage of the baited camera traps can be viewed [here](#).

AHU is also investigating eDNA methods for fish sampling in cooperation with the museum and other research organisations. This is a longer-term project to allow fish community identification from water samples by testing for fish DNA.

**Andrew Arthur – City of Darwin**

Andrew referred to the report 'Investigation into Allegations of Waste Mismanagement Practices by Air services Australia at Darwin International Airport'. The topic was heavily discussed including how Rapid Creek water quality data could be integrated into reporting.

Click [here](#) to view the report.

*Action: Include integrated reporting as a standard agenda item.*

**Dean McAdam – Parks and Wildlife**

Dean advised Parks conducted a burn alongside Rapid Creek Landcare Group.

Works continue on Lakeside Drive by Power and Water. Parks are in discussions with DIPL to handover a fishing platform.

Dean noted the Darwin Harbour clean up event is at the end of June.

		Dean advised he hasn't received the results for goanna testing.
7.	<b>Rapid Creek Plan of Management</b>	<p>Ian reiterated the importance of referring to this document as the Rapid Creek Plan of Management. This will ensure it doesn't get confused with DIPLs management plan.</p> <p>Ian advised he has been in discussions with Christine Long, Executive Director Water Resources, DENR regarding potential funding to have a consultant draft the new plan of management. The idea was that DIPL would pass the money along with the responsibility to DENR. Christine advised DENR will not be doing the consultancy and that DIPL will need to finalise the plan of management. Discussions continue between DENR and DIPL to agree on a solution. A draft will be distributed to the committee for input.</p>
8.	<b>Other Business</b>	<p><b>Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>Ian advised Christine Long would like to re-align RCWAC Terms of Reference with other water committees. IL has reviewed the draft and provided feedback. The draft will be distributed to committee members for feedback prior to going to the Minister.</p>
9.	<b>Next Meeting</b>	It was agreed the next meeting would be held late September 2019 at the Charles Darwin University.
<b>Actions arising from meeting 10 (12 June 2019)</b>		
<b>Action Officer</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Amy Cooper	<p><b>Fire and Weed Management Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Contact Weed Management Branch to obtain a copy of CDUs Fire and Weed Management Plan.</li> <li>➤ Forward DIA Fire and Weed Management Plans to members for information.</li> </ul>	<b>Complete</b> CDU Fire and Weed Management Plan received.
Ian Lancaster	<p><b>Detention Basin</b></p> <p>Graeme wasn't present at the meeting to provide an update. IL agreed to contact GF for an update on the detention basin and responses to committee concerns;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ongoing maintenance and responsibility</li> <li>recycling water</li> <li>risk Assessment Strategy.</li> </ul>	<b>Outstanding</b>
10.	<b>Meeting closed</b>	Meeting closed at 10:20 am