

RAPID CREEK WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – MEETING 12

Date:	Friday, 7 February 2020	Location:	Northern Australia Conference Room, Development House
Time:	9:00 am – 11:00 am		76 the Esplanade, Darwin
Chair:	Ian Lancaster	Secretariat:	Amy Cooper, DENR (Secretariat)
Attendees:	Prof. Karen Gibb (KG) Dean McAdam (DM) Peter O’Hagan (Proxy for LP) Neal Adamson (NA) Nick Fewster (NF) Julia Schult (JS) Robin Knox (RK)		Charles Darwin University Department of Tourism and Culture Rapid Creek Landcare Group Department of Defence Darwin International Airport Department of Environment and Natural Resources City of Darwin
Apologies:	Lisa Peters (LP) Timothy Moore (TM) Graeme Finch (GF)		Rapid Creek Landcare Group Community Representative Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

Agenda No.	Agenda Item	Action Required (e.g. information / discussion / decision)
	Meeting open	The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 9:02 am.
1.	Welcome, Attendance and Apologies	Chairperson, Ian Lancaster, opened and welcomed members to the 12th meeting. Apologies were noted from Lisa Peters and Tim Moore. It was noted Karen Gibb would arrive at 9:30 am and Robin Knox would depart at 9:30 am. Peter O’Hagan attended as a proxy for Lisa Peters. Mr Ian Lockley, District Officer, NTPFES will attend the meeting at 10:00 am to have a discussion around the fire response in Darwin Conservation areas.
2.	Conflicts of Interest	Nil.
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	The minutes of previous meeting on 24 September 2019 were circulated to the committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits. The minutes were accepted. MOVED: Dean McAdam CARRIED: Robin Knox

4.	Actions arising from the previous meeting 11 (24 September 2020)		
	Action Officer	Action	Status / Update
	Ian Lancaster	Fire and Weed Management Plans Contact CSIRO (commonwealth land) to confirm if they have fire and weed management plans that can be circulated to member organisations.	Ongoing Most organisations have provided their fire and weed management plans. IL to contact CSIRO. RK confirmed the City of Darwin do not have a fire or weed management plan to share. Neal asked if there was an update on fire and weed management programs from any land holders to the east of Amy Johnson Avenue within the catchment. Ian agreed to contact CSIRO and the Marrara Christian School. Ian will also contact the Weeds Branch, DENR to confirm if land holders have been directed to implement their gamba grass management plans.
	Ian Lancaster	Draft letter to NTEPA (with cc to CDU) regarding earthworks on CDU campus.	In Progress A letter titled Potential Pollution Incident at CDU Casuarina Campus was sent to the EPA and CDU. 28/1 - Karen confirmed Dr Ian Hollingworth, a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, was engaged to draft a report. Some preliminary works have been completed. It was agreed to request copy of report once finalised through the NTEPA.
Nick Fewster	Draft letter to the fire brigade and distribute to members for comment.	Complete A letter was sent to Mark Spain, Chief Fire Officer, NTPFES. Mr Ian Lockley attended the meeting to discuss issues raised.	
5.	Report on Activities within the Catchment	<p>Robin Knox – City of Darwin Robin agreed to provide an update on the rezoning to conservation of lots 2495 and 5249 to improve conservation of the area. It was also noted there is a small wedge of land included in the conservation area that maybe transferred to City of Darwin, as per discussions with Department of Infrastructure, planning and logistics.</p> <p>Peter O’Hagan - Rapid Creek Landcare Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 180 seedlings have been planted at the mouth of Rapid Creek. Parks have undertaken slashing within the area. RCLG have submitted a grant to get a new brush cutter and are looking into reprinting copies of the Rapid Creek Bird Watching brochure. - A clean-up day is scheduled for Thursday, 13 February 2020 at the mouth of Rapid Creek where 120 Year 7 school students will attend to assist with the clean-up. <p>Dean McAdam – Parks and Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dean explained there were ongoing fires towards the end of year which prompted a meeting with the NT Fire and Rescue Service who committed to recognise some parts of the bush as environmental assets. A meeting will be held in March to identify locations within the Casuarina Coastal Reserve. Nick asked whether Darwin Airport could attend the meeting to explore their environmental assets. This will allow the fire department to know where to prioritise when fires hit. Parks have received a 12 month permit to undertake back burning. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks are still trying to resolve the issue of vacant land behind the Charles Darwin University. Gates have been installed to stop the public driving onto land for recreational fishing. This has reduced litter within the area. - Dean noted there is a severe vine growing that is difficult to control. <p>Neal Adamson – Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The major works program (EORLP - expansive of the explosive ordinated area) has now been completed. The ground around the works is stabilised with no increased turbidity or migration of soil into the creek. - Works will commence on northern perimeter fence between defence land, the Marrara Golf Club and the Marrara Sporting Complex, and should have no impact on the creek. - A community member raised some issues about fire and weed management at the DIA quarterly community consultation meeting. This has highlighted some gaps that are now being addressed. <p>Julia Schult – Aquatic Health Unit (DENR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Julia advised the next round of monitoring is scheduled to commence in April / May. <p>Nick Fewster - Darwin International Airport (DIA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DIA have had success with Gamba grass management with reports showing big reductions across the airport area. The air side gates have been installed allowing immediate access to the north of the solar farm (north-eastern end of runway). - A community member raised an issue with weed management at the DIA quarterly community consultation meeting. This prompted an off line meeting with DoD regarding weed management. As a result of that meeting it was agreed that the “triangle block” should now to be taken off the “contain and control” area and placed on the “eradication” area. - The PFAS Management Area Plan monitoring has commenced. Some of the higher priority sites are being remediated. Works will be underway soon where the soil will be remediated for that particular area using a “unique method”, details of which are currently unavailable, in addition to the background monitoring. - Eighty percent of the revegetation has returned after the fires. - The Larrakia Rangers have planted a few hundred seedlings near the Mercure Hotel as part of a community partnership program. - Territory Alliance are doing a lot of political promoting on Facebook. The Save Rapid Creek Group have posted their own local information around the concerns of PFAS and Rapid Creek, including discussions around DIA releasing data to the public. DIA have reviewed the information and are not comfortable releasing data without background context. - A cold storage facility has been built to air freight mangos north. The Sediment Erosion Control Plan has been approved by a consultant; however, there is a lot of exposed soil on the site that DIA are monitoring. <p>Karen Gibb – CDU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CDU are looking into developing an Interpretative walk in the native vegetation area on the west side of the university grounds to help stop any illegal dumping and educate the community about the flora and fauna in the area. Signs detailing information about animals and plants will be installed to inform students and the public. - Committee members will receive an invitation to participate in the Darwin Harbour Integrated Reporting stakeholder workshop
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		proposed for the week commencing March 16. A meeting will be held led by Lorraine Williams to identify Aboriginal cultural indicators.
6.	Fire and Weed Management Plan and Map	Nil to report.
7.	Update on the revision to the Rapid Creek Plan of Management	<p>Ian provided an update confirming DIPL have agreed to fund the consultancy. A meeting is being scheduled with DIPL to determine a scope of works. Julia Schult and Ian Lancaster will attend the meeting; Ian welcomed other members to attend. The consultant will also undertake the maintenance framework. Ian agreed to send the draft to members for comment prior to going to tender.</p> <p>It was noted Graeme was on the radio providing an update on the retention basin. DIPL are monitoring the trash racks due to blocking, and modifying as required. Cameras have now been installed. The removal of the black wattle that lies across the creek downstream of the Kimmorley bridge was discussed. Graeme explained it wouldn't make a difference to water levels during a large flood, and bank stabilisation would also need to be considered if removed. For now the wattle will remain.</p>
8.	Other Business	<p>Coordination of Prescribed Burns across the Catchment</p> <p>DIA have a strong focus on fuel load management, due to the late fires, and are looking at undertaking controlled burns within areas normally considered unnecessary. DIA will engage a consultant to prepare a plan. It could be a good outcome to have a united level for controlled burning across the catchment.</p> <p>Fire Response in Darwin Conservation Areas</p> <p>Ian welcomed Ian Lockley, District Officer, NTPFES to the meeting. Discussion was had around the importance of environmental assets and a continued strong and coordinated relationship between the fire department and landholders.</p> <p>Ian Lockley agreed saying the fire department needs to be better educated and welcomed organisations to brief the fire department in understanding the importance of protecting environmental assets.</p> <p>Neal Adamson would like to see landholders working together to ensure access is provided to the fire department in case of a fire.</p> <p>Ian Lockley suggested that the best time to undertake any training would be prior to the fire season.</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>Briefing sessions for NTPFES will be held with Parks (DM), DIA (NF) and Defence (NA) prior to the next fire season.</p> <p>RCWAC will include the production of maps that identify fire trails and environmental assets in the scope for the management plan..</p> <p>Once available, maps will be provided to NTPFES for display in fire stations/trucks.</p> <p>It was agreed that annual training sessions for NTPFES staff would be beneficial prior to the fire season, and this action should also be incorporated in the management plan.</p>
9.	Next Meeting	It was agreed the next meeting would be held May 2020.

<i>Actions arising from meeting 7 February 2020)</i>			
10.	Action Officer	Action	Status
10.1	Robin Knox	<p>Land Rezoning Robin agreed to provide an update on the rezoning to conservation of lots 2495 and 5249 to improve conservation of the area. It was also noted there is a small wedge of land included in the conservation area that maybe transferred to City of Darwin, as per discussions with Department of Infrastructure, planning and logistics.</p>	<p>12/2 - Recent advice in relation to land rezoning is that DIPL are still working through this process, post the Rapid Creek Flood Mitigation project, Council Officers can provide support if required, but are currently not involved in the process.</p> <p>With regard to the request for purchase or transfer of any land, it is appropriate that a resolution of the committee and a written request be provided to Council for consideration, happy to discuss this process.</p>
10.2	All members	<p>Fire Response in Darwin Conservation Areas Briefing sessions for NTPFES will be held with Parks (DM), DIA (NF) and Defence (NA) prior to the next fire season.</p> <p>RCWAC will include the production of maps that identify fire trails and environmental assets in the scope for the management plan.</p> <p>Once available, maps will be provided to NTPFES for display in fire stations/trucks.</p> <p>It was agreed that annual training sessions for NTPFES staff would be beneficial prior to the fire season, and this action should also be incorporated in the management plan.</p>	
11.	Meeting closed	Meeting closed at 10:44 am	