

Adelaide River water advisory committee: Meeting 2 summary

Date: Wednesday 2 October 2024

Time: 8.30 am to 4.00 pm

Location: Ground Floor Sturt Plateau Meeting room, Goyder Building, Palmerston

Attendance			
Initials	Name	Position and representation	
Chair	Darryl Day	Independent chair	
CL	Cherrian Luxton	Member, Community	
CJ	Christine Jenner	Member, Aboriginal, community, environment	
DC	David Ciaravolo	Member, Community, tourism or recreation	
DGY	David George Yates	Member, Aboriginal	
DG	David Gray	Member, Agriculture, community	
DY	Denzel Yates	Member, Aboriginal, community, environment	
KT	Kathleen Thomsen	Member, Aboriginal	
PS	Peter Shappert	Member, Agriculture, tourism or recreation	
PY	Petrina Yates	Member, Aboriginal	
PhY	Phillip Yates	Member, Aboriginal	
JMG	Jacqueline Maria Goodman	Member, Aboriginal	
Initials	Department (DLPE) staff and presenters		
PH	Phillipa Hunter	Director Water Management	
AD	Amy Dysart	Executive Director Water Resources	
TT	Toni Thomson	Committees & Engagement Officer	
CP	Chris Parker	Engagement Officer	
ND	Narada Dayarathne	Water Planner	
AC	Adrian Coster	Director Water Assessment	
ST	Steve Tickell	Hydrogeologist, Groundwater Assessment	
KW	Kiara Ware	A/Assistant Director, Water Regulation	
TD	Trevor Durling	Power and Water	
ET	Evan Tyrell	Power and Water	
Not in attendance			
Initials	Name	Position and representation	Notes
PG	Phillip Goodman	Member, Aboriginal	Apology
JH	Jeffrey Huddleston	Member, Aboriginal, agriculture, community, environment	Non-attendance
TK	Tarizma Kenyon	Member, Aboriginal	Non-attendance
CT	Christine Thomsen	Member, Aboriginal	Non-attendance

1. Meeting opening and governance

Meeting opened at 8.35 am

1.1 Welcome, welcome to Country and meeting purpose

Chair introductions

Welcome to Country

CJ welcomed the committee to Country.

Meeting Purpose

Chair welcomed members to the second meeting of the second meeting of the Adelaide River water advisory committee. Chair spoke of the productive, safe and engaging space the first meeting was, and hoped this continued into this second meeting.

The second water advisory committee meeting was focused on building member's understanding of the drivers for the water allocation plan, as well as further understanding the cultural, environmental and physical features of the catchment.

1.2 Attendance and introduction, evaluation nominee and confirm agenda

Chair invited members to introduce themselves

Evaluation Nominee

A committee member nominated to complete evaluation for the two day meeting.

Confirm Agenda

Agenda confirmed and no conflicts of interest were identified.

Paper and presentation: History of Darwin water supply

Power and Water provided a summary of:

- A history of options for future public water supply for Darwin region including consideration of other proposed dam locations and desalination.
- future water demand projections.
- future supply arrangements
 - current sources (including groundwater)
 - Bringing Manton Dam on-line
 - AROWS

Committee broke for morning tea 10:15-10:45

Paper and presentation: Adelaide River Off-stream Storage

Department of Logistics and Infrastructure provided:

- features of basin as an off-stream storage
- development of the basin and EIS
- AROWS operational arrangements

Presentation: Science of the Adelaide River Catchment

The department provided an overview of the science and monitoring through the history of the catchment:

- catchment and climate

- characteristics of the surface water resource
- ecological and water quality monitoring and mapping
- modelling introduction

Presentation: The groundwater resources of Darwin Rural

The department provided a summary of:

- aquifer characteristics in the district
- future groundwater plan for Darwin Rural area

Presentation: The regulatory arrangements for Darwin Rural and the Adelaide River catchment

The department provided a summary of:

- the new Darwin Rural Adelaide River water control district
- overview existing groundwater users
- transitional regulatory arrangements and activities

Committee broke for lunch 12:30 to 1:10 pm

Presentation: Science program

Department talked through the timeframe and activities already underway and scheduled for the development of the plan.

Summary of meeting key points:

- AROWS is the trigger for the plan, however the plan is focused on management of the water resources for the entire catchment, focused on surface water given the limited interaction between ground water and surface water in the catchment.
- The AROWS site is a unique geological and geographical feature that has potential to provide large volumes of water without damming the Adelaide River
- Considerable work that has gone into the AROWS project over the last 15 years, which culminated in acceptance of the project with Infrastructure Australia, and support from the federal government.
- There are still many considerations for AROWS before submission of funding proposals including an environmental impact assessment, concept design and feasibility assessments and determination of water availability via the water allocation plan.
- The Adelaide River and floodplain monitoring assessment and reporting framework, developed under national best practice guidelines along with ecological asset mapping will be used to determine the plans ecological water requirements
- The Darwin rural water regulation strategy, and the transitional arrangements for the Adelaide River catchment provide a 2 year period for commercial water users to transition into the licencing regime. At the conclusion of the 2 year period, it may be difficult for water users to get a licence, so the best advice is to contact the department now for further information.

Date: Thursday 3 October 2024 -

Time: 8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Location: Field trip to Adelaide River

Committee toured the AROWS basin site, surrounding river and floodplains and the Marrakai horticultural district.