Daly River Water Advisory Committee: summary of meeting 5

Dates: Thursday 5 February (day 1), Friday 6 February (day 2), Wednesday 18 February (day 3) and Wednesday 27 May (day 4)

Location: Online and Goyder Building, Palmerston

Attendance		
Name	Position and representation	Notes
Rod Marsh	Independent Chair	Attended days 1, 2, 3 and 4
Alison Ross	Member, Community	Attended days 1, 2, 3 and 4
David Ciaravolo	Member, Recreational Fishing	Attended days 1, 2, 3 and 4
Joy (Elna) Cardona	Member, Aboriginal	Attended days 1, 2, 3, apology part of day 4
Mona Liddy	Member, Aboriginal	Attended days 1 and 3, apology days 2 and 4
Sam McBean	Member, Agriculture	Attended days 1, 2, 3, apology day 4
Simone Cameron	Member, Agriculture	Attended days 1, 2, 3 and 4
Whitney Dollemore	Member, Agriculture	Attended days 1, 2, 3 and 4
Andrew Dalglish	Member, Agriculture	Apology days 1 and 2, attended days 3 and 4
Daniel Niceforo	Member, Agriculture	Apology days 1 and 2, attended days 3 and 4
Joshua Hunter	Member, Aboriginal	Apology days 1, 2 and 3, attended day 4
DLPE staff attendance was for open meeting items; DLPE staff did not attend the Committee's *in camera* items at the request of the independent Chair		
Nerida Beard	Executive Director Water Resources	Attended day 1 to lunch break, day 3 and 4
Carly Hibble	Assistant Director Water Management	Attended day 1, 3 and 4
Dale Cobban	Director Water Assessment	Attended for day 1 item 2.3
Joanna Ellis	Director Water Management	Attended day 4
Hannah Small	Committees Project Officer	Attended day 1, 3 and 4
Ben Muller	A/Director Water Regulation	Attended day 3
Gayle Grieger	Director Water Regulation	Attended day 4
Apologies		
Name	Position and representation	Notes
Alister Andrews	Member, Aboriginal	Apology
Russell Draper	Member, Tourism	No response

Meeting format: Meeting 5 was a single meeting conducted across four sessions, adjourned and resumed between sessions. This format allowed for the provision of further and updated information and additional time for the Committee's deliberations. The Committee concluded the meeting once satisfied it had sufficient information to finalise its advice to the Minister for Water Resources on the *Katherine water allocation plan 2026-2036*.

Day 1: Thursday 5 February

Ahead of Day 1 the Committee was provided with updated versions of the Katherine water allocation plan 2026-2036, background report, implementation actions and GHD's report on the results of the public consultation on the draft Katherine water allocation plan 2026–2036 to assist their deliberations.

Day 1 meeting commenced at 9.05am

Meeting opening and attendance

The Chair acknowledged country and traditional custodians of the Katherine region and Aboriginal members of the Committee. The Chair expressed appreciation for members' flexibility in adapting to a mostly online format due to severe weather and flooding occurring in the Katherine region at the time.

Chair confirmed the purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed Katherine water allocation plan 2026-2036 and supporting documents, and determine advice to the Minister on declaring the plan.

Members confirmed that no conflicts of interest or confidential matters had arisen since the previous meeting, or declarations made on commencement of the Committee.

Have your say feedback - themes and implications

GHD presented a summary of consultation on the *draft Katherine water allocation plan 2026–2036*, outlining the submission review process, the key themes and volume of comments by theme, and outlined how this was presented in the consultation summary report. The Committee engaged with the summary results and sought clarification.

Break 10.30am morning tea, restarted 11.05am

Updates to the Katherine water allocation plan 2026-2036

The Department presented the updates made to the plan since the draft was released for public consultation in October 2025. The committee was concerned that some of the updates did not reflect the outcomes of public consultation and the committee believed that those updates would affect the practical implementation of the plan and put further questions to the department.

Break 1.05pm lunch, restarted 1.55pm

The Committee discussed and evaluated the updated plan and its supporting documents, put questions to the Department, and identified a range of clarifying questions and priority topics. Additional Department staff attended, providing technical context.

Break 3.50pm afternoon tea, restarted 4.15pm

The Chair provided a wrap up of the day to inform Day 2 and determined that Day 2 of the meeting should begin with *in camera* Committee deliberation.

Meeting adjourned 5pm

Day 2: Friday 6 February

Day 2 meeting resumed at 9.05am

The Chair delivered Day 2 of the meeting *in camera*. The Committee identified a number of questions for resolution before their advice could be finalised. The Chair adjourned the meeting so that deliberations could resume once further information had been provided.

Meeting adjourned 11am

Day 3: Wednesday 18 February

Ahead of Day 3, the Department provided written material responding to the Committee's questions, which the Committee reviewed in advance.

Day 3 meeting resumed at 1.00pm

Day 3 continued Meeting 5. The session opened with Committee *in camera* deliberation and Department representatives joined at 2.05pm to provide further clarification on the materials circulated to the Committee and to answer Committee questions.

Following discussion with Department representatives, the Committee requested further clarifying information and the Chair adjourned the meeting so that deliberations could resume once further information had been provided.

Meeting adjourned 3.15pm

Day 4: Wednesday 27 May

Ahead of Day 4, the Department provided updated versions of the Katherine water allocation plan 2026-2036, background report and implementation actions, together with other supporting material.

Day 4 meeting resumed at 10.00am

Meeting opening and attendance

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and an Aboriginal member acknowledged country and the traditional custodians of the Katherine region.

The Chair reminded members that the purpose of the meeting was to finalise the Committee's advice to the Minister on the Katherine water allocation plan 2026-2036, and confirmed the agenda.

Members confirmed attendance and declared any conflicts of interest.

Overview of the final plan and implementation actions

The Water Resources Division provided a concise orientation to the final plan package, focusing on the major elements of the 2026-2036 plan and the changes made since public consultation.

Committee/Department question and answer

The Committee put questions to the Department on the final plan to clarify outstanding matters ahead of its deliberations.

Break 11.30am, restarted 11.45am

Committee *in camera*

Department representatives withdrew so the Committee could deliberate *in camera*. The Committee considered members' views on the final plan and the matters raised in question and answer, and began its review of the draft advice, including its overall position and key themes.

Lunch break 1pm, restarted 2pm

The Committee continued its deliberation, reviewing the order and framing of themes in the draft advice and working through the remaining issues.

Break 2.50pm, restarted 3pm

The Chair summarised the Committee's position and outlined next steps.

The Committee agreed to finalise its draft advice to the Minister via circular resolution following meeting close.

Meeting closed 4pm