

RAPID CREEK WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES - MEETING 4

Date: Tuesday 12 September 2017
Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Location: First Floor Conference Room, Palmerston Goyder Building
 25 Chung Wah Terrace – Palmerston

Chair: Ian Lancaster KSI Land and Water Planning

Secretariat: Carmony Leso Corporate Services (DENR)

Attendees: Darren Skuse NT Airports
 Julia Schult Aquatic Health Unit, WRD (DENR)
 Karen Gibb REIL, CDU
 Lisa Peters Rapid Creek Landcare Group
 Neal Adamson Department of Defence
 Nigel Weston Parks and Wildlife (DTC)

Guests: Ken Vowels Member for Johnson
 Tristan Sloan Department of the Chief Minister

Apologies: Donna Jackson Larrakia Nation
 Emma Lewis City of Darwin
 Ian Kew Northern Territory Airports
 Tim Moore Community Representative

ITEM 1 – WELCOME

Chairperson Ian Lancaster opened the meeting at 2:00pm and welcomed the attendees.

ITEM 2 – ACTION ITEMS

Responsibility of	Action	Comments / Updates	Status
Emma Lewis	Follow up on the status of the review of the storm water and compliance.	This is an ongoing activity for any new developments and not an agenda item to provide update on	Ongoing - Updated
Ian Lancaster	Follow up regarding Septic Tanks and whether or not people still utilise them.	Building services do not have any records. Ian will follow up with DoH	Ongoing - Updated

Ian Lancaster	Follow up with John Pudney from PWC regarding the Water Quality data for the Northlakes Golf Course.	Has yet to receive a response. Ian will follow up again.	Ongoing - Updated
Ian Lancaster	Follow up on funding options to upgrade the Rapid Creek Management Plan		Ongoing
Carmony Leso	Inform DCC and the department (Simon Cruickshank) that there is erosion at the red foot bride and the V notch in the Creek.		Complete
Neal Adamson	Circulate DoD's updated Bushfire Management Plan and Weed Management Plan (for RAAF Base Darwin) to the Committee.		New
Carmony Leso and Ian Lancaster	Seek information about whether or not DIPL has done any Storm Water Management Planning for the Berrimah North development.		Complete
Carmony Leso	Forward the link to the Fish Video to the Committee.		Complete
Carmony Leso	Update the TOR to reflect the suggested changes.		Complete

ITEM 3 – UPDATE ON PFAS

Ian reported that the testing that has been done to date on PFAS has shown that there are no real concerns with regard to the intake from aquatic foods. DoD have now installed quite a few monitoring bores so there will be ongoing monitoring from the ground water systems but from the surface water systems it seems it's not as big an issue as it could have been. The signage has now been removed around Rapid Creek.

Neal Adamson reported that from the background data from the levels DoD have had in their quality control data, and speaking to Australian experts on the issue, the levels in RC are equivalent or less than what you would expect in any domestic creek system.

Detention Basin

Ian reported that there was a proposal to build a detention basin to mitigate flooding in RC. When DIPL did testing they had the material being removed from the catchment and the testing revealed there was PFAS in the soils. As a result the NOI had to be redone to keep all the material being excavated onsite. This has now led to there being a 12 month delay in construction, as the proposal required a re-design to retain all excavated material on-site,

ITEM 4 – STATUS AND REVIEW OF STORM WATER AND COMPLIANCE

Emma Lewis was an apology. This agenda item will be carried over to the next meeting

ITEM 5 – UPDATE ON THE FISHING PLATFORM

Nigel Weston reported that there are further enquiries to be made in respect to what the issue is. Lisa noted that the concern is around a tree of significance that was undercutting the vicinity of the platform. Nigel noted

that the Tree has always been a concern but nothing has been done, nor will be done, to prevent erosion, as it is considered to be a natural process and past efforts to protect assets from natural erosion have failed or resulted in unintended consequences. The fishing platform was a City of Darwin initiative after a disabled gentleman was lobbying for one. The platform is maintained by DIPL in terms of its structural integrity and is cleaned by Parks and Wildlife.

ITEM 6 – REPORT ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CATCHMENT

Rapid Creek Landcare Group

Lisa Peters

Lisa reported that the creek between McMillians and Trower Road, near the red foot bridge and the v-notch, has erosion on the Millner side at the footbridge, and both sides at the V-notch weir which presumably belongs to DENR, Water Resources Division. Lisa questioned who would be responsible for this as it is on Council Land. Carmony will advise both the Council and the department of the erosion.

Lisa reported that the Landcare Group has hosted two walks, one with NT Field Naturalist Group and the other was for the Cancer Council Seniors. About 50 people attended both of the walks.

The Landcare Group has provided feedback on Darwin Airports draft Master Plan and the City of Darwin Lakeside Drive Community Garden Municipal Plan. The Landcare Group met with the Community Garden regarding a weed management workshop.

The Landcare Group will be commencing a project soon and will have a site meeting down at “the spit” which is located just upstream from the Yellow Bridge and Fishing Platform. They will be doing some initial planning to facilitate the activities which are intended to include weed control, access control, and tree planting.

The Landcare Group received a letter from DoD who offered to provide them with a briefing on their proposed works for their Explosives Ordinates Depot.

The Landcare Group has asked City of Darwin to repaint the red footbridge red.

Action: Carmony to inform DCC and the department (Simon Cruickshank) that there is erosion at the red foot bridge and the V notch in the Creek.

NT Airports

Darren Skuse

Darren reported that in relation to the flood mitigation works, NT Airports are working with the department and the department’s consultant, Jacobs, around that issue to ensure a co-ordinated effort. Based on the changes with the Detention Basin not going ahead, they are working with the consultant to remodel some of the options on the Airports site.

PFAS continues to be a big agenda item and they are still working closely with the Interagency PFAS Working Group. They are also working closely with the Defence PFAS Site Investigation team.

There is a PFAS National Environmental Plan being circulated, comments are due back on 25 September. NT Airports will be providing comment through the Australian Airports Association.

NT Airports is still revising their scope on Annual Water Quality Monitoring which will go out to selected tender for consultants.

The NT Airports Master Plan and Airport Environment Strategy was approved by the Minister of Transport and will be available on NT Airports website.

NT Airports received a scope of works / proposal from CDU about Faecal Source Tracking in Rapid Creek. It looks at proving more clarity as to whether or not Rapid Creek is getting higher counts of faecal sources and whether they are human or animal. Darren tabled it to the committee to see if any members would be interested in being involved in a partnership study which would cost approximately \$150 000.

Department of Defence

Neal Adamson

Neal reported that DoD haven't done anything operationally in the RC Catchment area since the last meeting.

Neal reported that DoD are in the process of updating their Bushfire Management Plans. They have had a national consultant look at them to make sure they are consistent with National Guidelines. The Plan will come out in 2 – 3 weeks and Neal will circulate it to the committee once it has been approved.

DoD's Weed Management Plans have also been updated and will run alongside the Bushfire Management Plan. DoD will also circulate the Weed Management Plan (for RAAF Base Darwin) to the committee for their information.

DoD have their EOLRP (Explosive Ordinates) upgrade happening next year. Neal will bring a copy of the plans to the next meeting.

DoD will more than likely see some works on the extension to the BRA (Bomber Replenishing Apron). In regards to Water Quality Control DoD are ensuring all run off from the Apron is captured and goes through a Purceptor before it goes into the open storm water drain.

Neal questioned whether the department has provided advice on how they are going to manage the Storm Water Flow out at the Berrimah North Development as it has the potential to impact on the catchment. Ian and Carmony will follow up with DIPL.

Action:

- Neal to circulate DoD's updated Bushfire Management Plan and Weed Management Plan (for RAAF Base Darwin) to the Committee.
- Carmony and Ian to seek information about whether or not DIPL has done any Storm Water Management Planning for the Berrimah North development.

Charles Darwin University

Karen Gibb

Karen reported that there is a Masters Student at CDU who has done some work on human faecal DNA which can be used as an archive to determine whether or not some markers the committee wants to develop are human. There is also an Honours Student who has found, using traditional approaches, that there have been high counts of bacteria, E.coli etc. from drains around the catchment.

There was an Aquatic Food Monitoring Program commissioned by PWC, that included samples from the Rapid Creek, and the Larrakia Rangers were instrumental in some of that work as well. What came out of that was that is not human faecal or effluent specific markers but an issue with bacteria vibrios that accumulated,

particularly in the wet season, in some of the foods that people like to eat. CDU are proposing to team up with a group from Sydney University of Technology to start a pilot project to use a new screening method that will more broadly look at some of the issues around water and sediment.

Karen is the new Chairperson of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC). DHAC has had two meetings so far. On Thursday there is an out of session seminar with a presentation from Bill Dennison to discuss the Darwin Harbour Report Cards and the different ways of reporting.

Aquatic Health Unit, Water Resources Division (DENR)

Julia Schult

Not much to report. The Rapid Creek fish video has been put on the website. Carmony will email the link to the Committee.

Action: Carmony to forward the link to the Fish Video to the Committee.

Parks and Wildlife (DTC)

Nigel Weston

Nigel reported that Parks and Wildlife have two areas that they are involved in operationally (Lakeside Drive) which City of Darwin have a Master Plan for. The interest there was the illegal dumping a year ago or so. It is about rectification and getting it cleaned up. Parks and Wildlife are entering into a MOU with DCC on how they manage that area and the area behind CDU. Parks and Wildlife have put in a proposal for minor new works next year to block unrestricted access to the Rapid Creek area behind the Uni.

KSI Land and Water Planning

Ian Lancaster

Ian followed up regarding Septic Tanks and if people still utilise them. Ian reported that building services do not have any records and advised that Ian approach DoH. Ian will continue to follow this up.

Ian has emailed John Pudney from PWC regarding the Water Quality data for the Northlakes Golf Course but has yet to receive a response. Ian will continue to chase it up with John.

ITEM 7 – UPDATE REGARDING THE REVISION TO THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Justine Elder from Landcare NT and RDANT provided feedback regarding funding options for the Committee to get their Management Plan updated. Ian will continue to follow up on funding options.

ITEM 8 – REVISION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ian suggested changing the meeting frequency mentioned in the TOR from 8 weeks to 10 – 12 weeks and changing the meeting time from 2:00pm – 4:00pm to 3:00pm – 5:00pm.

Action: Carmony to update the TOR.

ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

Ian reported that there doesn't appear to be a great concern from the general public in regard to PFAS. DoD had a public meeting at CDU and only 2 members of the public attended. Darren reported that at the PFAS National Environmental Plan meeting in Darwin there was a large turnout from the public, including some people from Katherine.

The next meeting will be held in December (early). Carmony will email out a Doodle Poll to determine the date. Darren noted that a possible venue could be the Airport and Darren will provide car parking passes.

Action: Carmony to email out a Doodle Poll to the Committee to determine the meeting date in December.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

Action Officer	Action	Status
Secretariat	Inform DCC and the department (Simon Cruickshank) that there is erosion at the red foot bride and the V notch in the Creek.	Complete
Neal Adamson	Circulate DoD's updated Bushfire Management Plan and Weed Management Plan (for RAAF Base Darwin) to the Committee.	New
Ian Lancaster and Secretariat	Seek information about whether or not DIPL has done any Storm Water Management Planning for the Berrimah North development.	Complete
Secretariat	Forward the link to the Fish Video to the Committee.	Complete
Secretariat	Update the TOR to reflect the suggested changes.	Complete
Secretariat	Email out a Doodle Poll to the Committee to determine the meeting date in December.	Complete

Next Meeting: Early December 2017

Meeting Closed: 3:10pm