

Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 21 November 2022
Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Chair: Nick Fewster, City of Darwin

Location: Level 4 Finke Meeting Room, Goyder Centre, Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
Secretariat: Carmony Leso, Executive Officer – Committees (DEPWS)

Attendees: Dean McAdam
Karen Gibb – *Teams*
Megan Coles – *Teams*
Neal Adamson
Peter O’Hagan – *Proxy*

Parks and Wildlife, DEPWS
Charles Darwin University
Airport Development Group
Department of Defence
Rapid Creek Landcare Group

Apologies Jonathan Burcher
Lisa Peters
Morgan Richard
Timothy Moore

Water Resources Division
Rapid Creek Landcare Group
City of Darwin
Community Representative

No.	Item	Action (e.g. Noting / Discussion / Decision)
	Meeting opened	The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee (RCWAC) meeting opened at 2:00pm.
1	Welcome attendance and apologies	Chairperson, Nick Fewster, opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the 20 th meeting. Apologies were noted from Jonathan Burcher, Lisa Peters, Morgan Rickard and Timothy Moore.
2	Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts declared.
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting on 1 September 2022 were circulated to the Committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits. The minutes were accepted with no further changes.
4	Actions arising from the previous meeting	
	Action	Action Officer Status / Update
	Land Rezoning Letters were drafted to City of Darwin (CoD) and the Northern Territory Government (NTG) requesting transfer of the land and send RCWAC members for their approval. The request is being considered by CoD.	City of Darwin In progress Nick reported that CoD are supportive of having the land transferred over to them. CoD are liaising with DIPL on the transfer.
	Gross Pollutant Traps CoD advised that there were thirteen with limited data	City of Darwin In progress An assessment of gross pollutant traps has occurred across CoD areas within the

			catchment. This information to support RCWAC discussions on potential future locations and their relevant land tenure
	Contact DIPL about the patch of natural bush on the detention basin in Rapid Creek that needs maintenance.	Nick Fewster	Ongoing Email sent to Graeme Finch on 18 February 2022
	Collate priority catchment management information to provide Luke Gosling as part of the Urban Rivers and Catchment Program.	All members	Complete Refer to item 10
	Draft a letter to the DHIRC sub-committee about the values gaps in the DHIRC. Karen to assist Nick with drafting the letter in her capacity as DHAC member.	Nick Fewster and Karen Gibb	Complete Refer to item 6
	Rapid Creek Landcare to provide an update to the committee about the meeting between the Landcare Groups and Minister Moss and Minister Worden on the fire issues within the catchment.	Peter O'Hagan	Complete Refer to item 7
	Ask DIPL for further information about the large stormwater pipes going into Boulter Road and what the implications are for catchment flows.	Nick Fewster	In progress Discuss at next meeting
	Rapid Creek Landcare to put forward a proposal to CoD about installing a water point near the mouth of Rapid Creek	Peter O'Hagan	Complete
5	Correspondence		
5.1	Correspondence out	The following incoming correspondence was tabled at the meeting for noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communique to the Minister • RCWAC letter to DHAC 	
5.2	Correspondence in	The following outgoing correspondence was tabled at the meeting for noting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCLCG letter to RCWAC about Drains and GPTs 	
6	Meetings attended by RCWAC Chair	Meeting with the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee Nick reported that he met with the DHAC on 10 November 2022 to discuss RCWACs proposal to expand the Rapid Creek ecosystem health reporting within the Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card (DHIRC) and discuss how this may be progressed to achieve alignment with the DHIRC and provide value to Darwin Harbour and Rapid Creek stakeholders. DHAC is supportive of having Rapid Creek incorporated into the DHIRC and suggested that RCWAC determine what the community values are of the Catchment first and then they can be matched up to the DHIRC to identify where the gaps are. This can be done via a survey sent out to the community to gather the information and then table the results for workshopping.	

		<p><i>Discussion:</i> Karen suggested to have one or two people from RCWAC on the working group for the DHIRC. Nick suggested to have Jonathan Burcher on the working group and either himself or Neal.</p> <p>Nick asked if anyone knows anyone who can help RCWAC drive the process to undertake the values assessment. Nick will ask Jonathan if it's something he can do, otherwise the Committee can workshop it.</p> <p>Meeting with Minister Moss</p> <p>Nick reported that he met with the Ministers Chief of Staff Claire Punch and Emily Rutherford as the Minister was unable to attend. Nick reported that the Minister would like to attend the next RCWAC meeting. Nick discussed with the Minister better resourcing of fires and the suggestion to operationalise no fire zones across the catchment so there is a 24 hour on call system that NTFRS are responsible for where Parks can provide support as part of a procedure where there is effective resourcing over weekends at night time. Potential no fire zones could include Rapid Creek reserve at the airport and the community revegetation site down at the mouth of Rapid Creek.</p> <p>Nick also discussed the threat of increased catchment flows and undoing the work of the Marrara basin which has responded to historical developments. The airport Master Plan stakeholder engagement process will be a key process for looking at this issue on airport land. There is a gap with the process and plan established for ensuring no net inflows at Rapid Creek, where it was suggested to discuss this with Minister Manison but Nick suggested the committee would initially discuss this internally for further information to be provided by Defence.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Neal advised that DoD are fully aware of the requirement to minimise any impact of stormwater flows on Rapid Creek. Nick asked how Defence could provide assurance on this aspect and whether stormwater planning had been developed as part of the recent and future projects that will caused increased surface flows in the catchment. Neal advised that the committee can obtain the erosion and sediment control plans or could get a letter from the project providing that assurance in writing.</p> <p>Action: Neal to provide information on how current and future developments are managing potential increases in stormwater at RAAF Darwin.</p>
7	<p>Fire Prevention and Management at Casuarina Costal Reserve</p>	<p>Peter O'Hagan reported that the Rapid Creek Landcare Group (RCLG), the Casuarina Costal Reserve (CCR) and Joshua Fischer – Assistant Chief Fire Officer, met with Minister Moss and Trevor Cox from Minister Mannison's office to discuss the concerns of the community regarding the long-term implications of fire and habitat loss across CCR. The notes from the meeting were tabled for noting and discussion.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Dean noted that NTFRS are in charge of the ERA and how they have different priorities to Parks. Dean advised that Parks don't do any burning from July, anything from this time is classified as wildfire and dealt with by NTFRS.</p> <p>Nick advised that he will add this to the Communique for discussion with the Minister.</p> <p>Karen suggested also raising the issue of air quality in relation to these fires and bringing in Environmental Health. Karen advised that she is meeting with the Director for Environmental Health on another matter but will discuss the</p>

		<p>committees concerns with her as well. Nick advised that it would be good if someone from Health could also attend a future meeting and present on the issue of air quality from fires.</p> <p>Action: Karen to raise the issue of air quality with the Director of Environmental Health and see if they will present to the committee.</p>
8	Rapid Creek Drains and Gross Pollutant Traps	<p>Peter tabled the letter from the RCLCG to the RCWAC for noting and discussion. The letter was in relation to the amount of litter that enters Rapid Creek and the lack of Gross Pollutant Traps in the catchment.</p> <p>Discussion: Nick suggested determining where the priority sites are and potentially utilising the Healthy Rivers Program funds to support GPTs installation. Dean advised that each land owner will be responsible for maintaining any GPTs in their area.</p> <p>Action: Nick to include GPTs in the list of items RCWAC see as suitable for the Healthy Rivers Program.</p>
9	Rapid Creek Plan of Management	<p>The updates made to the Rapid Creek Plan of Management were circulated to the RCWAC for feedback and approval.</p> <p>Discussion: under the priority actions for Cultural and Natural Assets it was suggested to add - 'Request DEPWS to establish biodiversity assessment of the catchment and provide these data for integrated reporting'. The committee voted and agreed it should be changed to 'Establish a biodiversity assessment of the catchment and provide the data for reporting'.</p> <p>Action: Nick to update the Rapid Creek Plan of Management and recirculate for finalisation.</p>
10	Healthy Rivers Program Priorities	<p>The committee discussed some potential priorities for the Healthy Rivers Program and determined the following priorities to be put forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross Pollutant Traps • Key areas to have buffer planting • Establishment of a biodiversity assessment of the catchment and provide the data for reporting • Extending the trail between McMillians and Henry Wriggley Drive • Targeted investment to support eco system health monitoring <p>Action: Nick to collate the priorities for the Healthy Rivers Program and provide them to Luke Gosling</p>
11	Member Reports on activities	
11.1	Rapid Creek Landcare Group	<p>Peter reported that the RCLCG have concerns around the patch of land in the middle of the Detention Basin that needs weed spraying.</p> <p>RCLCG are soon to have their AGM with Landcare NT.</p> <p>Peter reported that on Sunday 27th November is the ECO fair out at Fred's Pass and the Landcare groups will have a combined stall.</p> <p>Action: Management issues on DIPL land to be discussed with DIPL at next meeting</p>
11.2	Charles Darwin University	<p>Karen reported at the last meeting about a Masters Student writing a thesis on Vibrio bacteria ecology. Karen advised that once this has been completed she will provide relevant information that may be useful to the committee, in terms of the first flush rains and the implications for water quality.</p>

		Karen reported that CDU wish to develop a grant and explore the capacity for their chemists to measure particles of plastic in fauna, sediment and water. If CDU could show that the plastic pollution is breaking up and being ingested by fish that are being caught and then consumed, people might take the issue more seriously.
11.3	Parks and Wildlife	Dean reported that clean up Darwin Harbour day resulted in 40 bags of rubbish being collected. On 3 December a planting day will be held at Lee Point. 1200 trees will be planted (500 with the community and the other 700 will be planted by Parks when timing is suitable. There have been some Ministerial's about Jet ski's using Rapid Creek and noise complaints from residents.
11.4	City of Darwin	Nick reported that CoD also participated in the Darwin Harbour Clean up. CoD's Biodiversity and Fire plan will be finalised soon, with much detail within the biodiversity assessment. CoD will be approaching DIPL to obtain the parcel of land at part section 5936, Marrara.
11.5	Department of Defence	Neal reported that there is minimal activity occurring at the RAAF base around the Rapid Creek catchment. Most of the operations are on the south west corner of the base. The burn program is commencing in the early wet season. The weed management plan has been reviewed and will be circulated to the committee in the new year.
11.6	Airport Development Group	Megan reported that the ADG continues to actively monitor the storm water flows into the catchment. ADG are trying to encourage litter management across the site and have installed more bins in the area.
9	Other Business	No other business.
10	Next meeting	The next meeting will be held in early 2023.
	Meeting closed	The meeting concluded at 3:55pm

Actions arising from the meeting

No.	Action	Action officer	Timeframe
1	Provide information on how current and future developments are managing potential increases in stormwater at RAAF Darwin.	Neal Adamson	
2	Raise the issue of air quality with the Director of Environmental Health and see if they will present to the committee	Karen Gibb	
3	Update the Rapid Creek Plan of Management and recirculate for finalisation	Nick Fewster	
4	Collate the priorities for the Healthy Rivers Program, including GPTs and provide them to Luke Gosling	Nick Fewster	
5	Management issues of DIPLs land in the catchment as an agenda item for next meeting	Carmony Leso	

Appendix A – Weed and Fire Management Plans

Some clarification on reports received is required

Plan	Organisation	Date created	Due for review
Charles Darwin University	Weed Plan	2021	2026
	Fire Plan	2021	2026
City of Darwin	Weed Plan	Final draft nearing completion	-
	Fire Plan	Final draft nearing completion	-
Darwin Airport Development Group	Weed Plan	2021	2023
	Fire Plan	2021	2023
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	Weed Plan	June 2020	June 2025
	Fire Plan	-	-
Department of Defence	Weed Plan	2021	2022
	Fire Plan	2022	2024
Parks and Wildlife	Weed Plan	2020	2022
	Fire Plan	2021	?