

Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date:	29 September 2023	Location:	Finke Meeting Room, 4 th Floor, Goyder Centre, 25 Chun Wah Terrace, Palmerston
Time:	9:00am – 11:00am	Secretariat:	Carmony Leso, A/Manager Corporate Governance, DEPWS
Chair:	Nick Fewster, City of Darwin		
Attendees:	Dean McAdam Jonathon Burcher – <i>Proxy (Teams)</i> Katina Croft – <i>Teams</i> Nicola Stromsoe – <i>Proxy</i> Peter O’Hagan – <i>Proxy</i> Racheal Curtain – <i>Proxy</i> Timothy Moore – <i>Teams</i> Wendy Pengelly – <i>Proxy</i>	Parks and Wildlife Division Water Resources Division Department of Defence Charles Darwin University Rapid Creek Landcare Group Crowne Land, DIPL Community member A/Senior Project Officer, DIPL	
Guests:	Emily Raso – <i>Teams</i>	Landcare NT	
Apologies	Lisa Peters Morgan Rickard Steven Dawson	Rapid Creek Landcare Group City of Darwin Larrakia	

No.	Item	Action (e.g. Noting / Discussion / Decision)
	Meeting opened	The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee (RCWAC) meeting opened at 9:00am.
1	Welcome attendance and apologies	Chairperson, Nick Fewster, opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the 23 rd meeting. He provided an Acknowledgement of Country. Apologies were noted from Lisa Peters, Morgan Rickard, Steven Dawson
2	Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts declared.
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting on 21 November 2023 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 meetings	
	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	Nick Fewster In progress City of Darwin is still working with DIPL to acquire the parcel of land

	for their approval. The request is being considered by CoD.		
	Gross Pollutant Traps CoD advised that there were thirteen with limited data	Nick Fewster	In progress Has been added as a priority for the Urban Rivers Program.
	Ask DIPL for further information about the large stormwater pipes going into Boulter Road and what the implications are for catchment flows.	DIPL rep	In progress Raechel advised that 1.5-diameter storm water pipes have been put underground in the Boulter Road area, and there are no implications to Rapid Creek.
	Management issues on DIPL land to be discussed with DIPL at next meeting, including the patch of natural bush on the detention basin in Rapid Creek that needs maintenance.	DIPL rep	Complete Wendy advised that it's on the weed contract for 2023-24
	Provide an update on any Defence policies that relate to / support no net increase in environmental flows from developments.	Katina Croft	In progress Katina advised that DoD Policies are Australia wide and the policy states that DoD are to look at the impact of flows, it doesn't say they can't be increased. However, the unofficial Policy in Darwin is to aim for no increase in flows. The projects are planning retention basins and GPTs on the areas that need them. The aim is to retain the water for 4 hours after peak flows. Katina will provide a further update at the next meeting. <i>Discussion: Tim recommended that Katina use the ADG Master Plan example to inform DoD of the community expectations around no net increase in flows on defence land to whatever extent possible.</i>
	Contact the Rapid Creek Markets about the Pollution in the Rapid Creek Drain from the Markets.	Nick Fewster	Complete CoD met with the Rapid Creek Market Association. Correspondence from that meeting was circulated to the Committee. Refer to item 8.1
	Put Rapid Creek's Values as a topic on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.	Carmony Leso	Complete Refer to item 6.
5	Proposed Water Ways Project - Landcare NT	Emily Raso from Landcare NT attended the RCWAC meeting and provided the Committee with an update on the proposed Water Ways Project. Emily reported that a pre-election commitment of \$200 million was made for Urban Rivers across Australia. In April 2022 Luke Gosling made a local commitment of \$3.82 million from that funding for restoration projects to improve the health and amenity of urban waterways including Rapid Creek, Ludmilla Creek, Sandy Creek, and Mitchell Creek Catchment.	

		<p>In April 2023, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) wrote to Landcare NT regarding a proposed 'Darwin Waterways Project' under the Australian Governments Urban Rivers and Catchment Program (URCP). DCCEEW advised that Landcare NT had been nominated as the lead organisation for the re-design and implementation of a Darwin Waterways Project to be delivered over five years (2023-2028).</p> <p>Landcare NT has worked with key stakeholders to co-design the proposal and ensure it delivers positive, sustainable outcomes for the community. The proposal has now been termed the Darwin Harbour Catchment Waterways Project (the Project). The Project will establish and improve riparian and aquatic habitat, enhance community biodiversity (flora and fauna) and improve water quality and hydrology to benefit native species in priority areas of the Darwin Harbour Catchment, including Rapid Creek, Ludmilla Creek, Sandy Creek, and Mitchell Creek sub-catchments.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Nick asked when the funds will become available and when the catchment plans will be available. Emily advised that the proposal will need to be approved by the Minister. Once approved negotiations between the NT Government and Australian Government will take place to resolve the funding arrangement. Emily advised that this could take anywhere between 2-3 weeks or up until January 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Peter asked which NT Government Agency will be responsible for the funding. Emily advised that the funding will sit with the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security.</i></p> <p><i>Tim asked who will determine how the money will be spent. Emily advised that Landcare NT and the Steering Committee will determine how it is spent. NTG will only have a contracting responsibility.</i></p> <p>Action: Carmony to circulate the Darwin Water Ways Project Proposal to the Committee.</p>
6	Darwin Harbour Report Card Values	<p>Jonathan advised that he will be attending the upcoming meeting of the Science Expert Committee formed for the Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card (DHIRC). This will be an opportunity to consider an overall reporting framework for Rapid Creek/Darwin Harbour.</p> <p>A more focussed meeting will be required to discuss the current monitoring programs operating in Rapid Creek, and the pathway to establish values and their indicators for Rapid Creek/Darwin Harbour. It may be worthwhile for other RCWAC reps to attend this meeting as we delve into further detail.</p> <p>Jonathan will send through updates to the Committee and seek input, following each meeting.</p>
7	eDNA Results	Jonathan Burcher advised that the results for Rapid Creek are delayed. He will report back at the next meeting.
8	Correspondence	
8.1	Correspondence in	<p>The following incoming correspondence was tabled at the meeting for noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drain pollution at Rapid Creek Markets • Darwin International Airport 2023 Master Plan feedback

		<p>Discussion: Nick advised that the Committee's feedback hasn't been reflected in the Master Plan and recommended including this issue in the Communique to the Minister.</p> <p>Tim recommended a letter from DIPL, the RCWAC and the Darwin Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee (DFMAC) is sent to Airport Development Group (ADG) expressing their concerns around the Darwin International Airport 2023 Master Plan. Raechel advised that DIPL will be sending a letter to ADG through the DFMAC.</p> <p>Action: Include in the Communique to the Minister the Committees concerns around the Darwin International Airport 2023 Master Plan.</p> <p>Action: RCWAC to write a letter to Airport Development Ground providing their feedback on the Darwin International Airport 2023 Master Plan.</p>
8.2	Correspondence out	<p>The following outgoing correspondence was tabled at the meeting for noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communique #6 to the Minister
9	Member Reports on activities	
9.1	Rapid Creek Landcare Group (RCLCG)	<p>Peter reported that the RCLCG held a successful Clean up Australia Day event. 35 people attended and 300kg of litter were cleaned up. Another one will be held on 7th October on the Lakeside Drive side of Rapid Creek.</p> <p>Peter noted that further efforts could be made to collect litter further upstream of the Detention Basin as quite a lot builds up there.</p> <p>Discussion: Raechel advised that a number of those drains belong to DIPL and she will make contact with the responsible stakeholders to get them cleaned up.</p> <p>Wendy noted that the Marrara Basin is on DIPLs Drains and Embankments period contract and the scope for that is currently being developed. Penny will share this with the RCWAC for their information and feedback.</p> <p>Action: Wendy to send the scope for DIPLs Drains and Embankments period contract to the RCWAC members for their information and feedback.</p>
9.2	Parks and Wildlife (PW)	<p>Dean reported that his team predominately works in Casuarina Costal Reserve. They work with both the Casuarina Costal Reserve Landcare Group (CCRLCG) and the RCLCG. There was an unfortunate incident at Rapid Creek where someone had built an unauthorised structure and told them to leave. It was suspected that he then caused malicious damage as a result. Dean is working with the Landcare groups to resolve this.</p> <p>Casuarina Costal Reserve was set on fire again. A 37 year old was caught and charged with 80 charges of arson around Darwin.</p>
9.3	City of Darwin (CoD)	<p>Nick reported that City of Darwin participated in the Darwin Harbour Clean up from Nightcliff Jetty back to Rapid Creek. Mostly small plastics were found and cleaned up.</p>
9.4	Department of Defence (DoD)	<p>Katina reported there has been some unplanned bushfires from people camping on DoD land. Because of this, DoD are looking at changing their Bushfire Plan, and assessing how they can keep people off the land. DoD will now start bushfire planning in November.</p> <p>DoD has one more wild dog activity planned for this year based on the activity index being high after a round in August was undertaken.</p>

		crcCare is planning some research on RAAF Darwin about how some contaminants break down and what it breaks down to. They are looking at glyphosate, which might be of interest to the Committee. They are also looking at what some of the aviation fuels break down to. <i>Discussion: Nick asked what aspects of the Bushfire Plan will be changed. Katina advised that the areas where people are camping will be excluded from the plan depending on how much of it has already been burnt by the illegal campfires.</i>
9.5	Community update	Tim reported that the PFAS Class action case was settled.
10	Other Business	No other business was discussed.
11	Next meeting	The next meeting will be held in late November / early December 2023.
	Meeting closed	The meeting concluded at 10:30am

Actions arising from the meeting

No.	Action	Action officer
1	Circulate the Darwin Water Ways Project Proposal to the Committee	Carmony Leso
2	Include in the Communique to the Minister the Committees concerns around the Darwin International Airport 2023 Master Plan.	Nick Fewster
3	Write a letter to Airport Development Ground providing their feedback on the Darwin International Airport 2023 Master Plan	The Committee, facilitated by Nick Fewster
4	Send the scope for DIPLs Drains and Embankments period contract to the RCWAC members for their information and feedback.	Wendy Pengelly

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	2023	-
	Fire Plan	2023	-
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	-	-

Plan	Organisation	Date created	Due for review
Department of Defence	Weed Plan	2022	2024
	Fire Plan	2022	2024
Parks and Wildlife	Weed Plan	2020	2022
	Fire Plan	2021	?