

Daly River water advisory committee: Meeting 1 Summary

Date: Tuesday 26 November 2024

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Location: Katherine Research Station, 4391 Stuart Highway, Katherine or online (MS Teams)

Attendance			
Initials	Name	Position and representation	
Chair	Rod Marsh	Independent chair	
SC	Simone Cameron	Member, Agriculture	
JC	(Elna) Joy Cardona	Member, Aboriginal	
AD	Andrew Dalglish	Member, Agriculture	
WD	Whitney Dollemore	Member, Agriculture	
RD	Russell Draper	Member, Tourism	
JH	Joshua Hunter	Member, Aboriginal	
ML	Mona Liddy	Member, Aboriginal	
SM	Sam McBean	Member, Cattle and Agriculture	
DN	Daniel Niceforo	Member, Agriculture	
AR	Alison Ross	Member, Community	
Initials	Department (DLPE) staff and presenters		
PH	Phillipa Hunter	Director Water Management	
AD	Amy Dysart	Executive Director Water Resources	
KE	Kavina Eksteen	Water Resources Planner	
AS	Aless Smith	Boards Engagement Officer	
Not in attendance			
Initials	Name	Position and representation	Notes
AA	Alistair Andrews	Member, Aboriginal	Apology
DC	David Ciaravolo	Member, Recreational fishing	Apology

1. Meeting opening and governance

Meeting opened at 12:56 pm

1.1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and meeting purpose

Chair introductions

Acknowledgment of Country

JH gave an appreciation and understanding of Country.

Meeting Purpose

Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the Daly River water advisory committee.

1.2 Attendance and introduction, evaluation nominee and confirm agenda

Chair invited members to introduce themselves and identify their interest in the Daly River catchment. Each member introduced themselves and spoke of their connection to the catchment, and their interest in the water plan and Daly River region.

Members spoke of their long connections to the Daly River region and their understanding of how important water is for the people that live in the area for agricultural productivity and development, biodiversity, tourism, the environment and culture. Members spoke of their hope for balance in water use and accessibility for all.

1.2 Evaluation Nominee

Members discussed the purpose of an evaluation and nominated a committee member to complete evaluation for the meeting.

1.3 Committee ways of working

Chair talked through the Terms of Reference (provided at the meeting). Chair identified that this will be the first committee that is appointed for longer than a plan's development, with the intent being to ensure the implementation actions outlined in the water plan, are interpreted and implemented as intended.

Chair noted the Terms of reference do not allow for proxies to ensure continuity of engagement across all meetings and maintain the diversity of contributions/interest in the committee's deliberations. He asked members to do their best to attend all meetings.

The committee agreed that any issues about the management of the committee and the conduct of meetings, along with feedback, should be raised with the department who will communicate with the Chair. Issues with members in the committee should be raised directly with the Chair, issues regarding the Chair should be raised directly with the department.

The Chair advised all committee members to identify any potential conflicts of interests at each meeting so they can be managed appropriately.

All members were encouraged to provide their commencement paperwork in a timely fashion to meet end of year payroll cutoffs.

1.3 Confirm upcoming meeting dates

The following dates for future meetings were confirmed:

- 5th and 6th March 2025 in Katherine
- 27th May and 28th May 2025 potentially in Douglas Daly
- 11th August 2025 (location TBD)

The committee agreed that dates and location for the final meeting of 2025 will be decided closer to the time.

Meeting calendar invites will be sent to all members.

Members noted they would like to receive meeting papers at least four weeks prior to meetings to ensure sufficient time for preparation of meetings. The Department noted that most of the papers for the next meeting will be drawn from material already available and committed to sharing these papers in the next week.

1.4 Katherine water allocation plan

The department provided an overview of where information regarding water resources, and water resource management, in the Northern Territory is publicly available on the department website. This includes policies, guidelines and position statements that inform the community how the department implements the Water Act.

The department then informed the committee of the midterm review for the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer water allocation plan and the recently published documents as part of this review. Following this, the department highlighted the Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer water allocation plan and the relevant important documents that have recently been made available on the plan webpage. The technical resource assessment will be the focus for the next committee meeting covering the science for the Katherine plan area. Documents referenced in the presentation will be provided to the committee.

1.5 Key summary points

The department summarised the key messages and events of the meeting.

1.6 Meeting evaluation

Led by the nominated member, the group completed the meeting evaluation.

Meeting closed at 2:48 pm