



# RAPID CREEK WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES - MEETING 9

**Date:** 27 March 2019 **Location:** Northern Australia Conference Room,

Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am 76 The Esplanade, Darwin

Chair: Ian Lancaster Secretariat: Amy Cooper, DENR (Secretariat)

| Attendees:                     |                           | Graeme Finch                  | DIPL (Capital Works Division)   |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
|                                |                           | Robin Knox                    | City of Darwin  |  |
| l                              |                           | Prof. Karen Gibb              | Charles Darwin University   |  |
|                                |                           | Julia Schult                  | DENR (Water Resources Division)   |  |
|                                |                           | Nick Fewster (proxy for IK)   | Darwin International Airport  |  |
|                                |                           | Dean McAdam                   | DTC (Parks and Wildlife)  |  |
|                                |                           | Neal Adamson                  | Department of Defence   |  |
|                                |                           | Peter O'Hagan (Proxy for LP)  | Rapid Creek Landcare Group  |  |
|                                |                           | Timothy Moore                 | Community Representative  |  |
| Apologies                      | :                         | Lisa Peters                   | Rapid Creek Landcare Group  |  |
|                                |                           | Ian Kew                       | NT Airports   |  |
| Guests:                        |                           | Mike Clark                    | Greening Australia  |  |
|                                |                           | Michael Christie              | Rapid Creek Landcare Group  |  |
| Agenda                         | Agenda Item  Meeting open |                               | Action Required   |  |
| No.                            |                           |                               | (e.g. information / discussion / decision)  |  |
|                                |                           |                               | The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 9:00 am   |  |
| 1. Welcom                      |                           | ome, Attendance and Apologies | Chairperson, Ian Lancaster, opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the ninth meeting.   |  |
|                                |                           |                               | Apologies were noted from LP and IK.  |  |
|                                |                           |                               | IL explained an action from the last meeting was to send a letter to Larrakia Nation requesting they nominate a new member in place of Donna Jackson. CEO Robert Cooper happily accepted advising Richard Fejo would be the new representative. Mr Fejo's appointment is currently being processed. |  |
| 2.                             | Conflicts of Interest     |                               | Nil.  |  |
| 3. Minutes of previous meeting |                           | tes of previous meeting       | The minutes of previous meeting on 30 November 2018 were circulated to the committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits.   |  |
|                                |                           |                               | The minutes were accepted with minor spelling amendments corrected.   |  |





| 4. | Actions arising from the previous meeting |  |  |  |  |
|----|---|--|--|--|--|
|    | Action Officer                            | Action   | Status / Update  |  |  |
|    | lan Lancaster                             | Follow up on funding options to upgrade the Rapid Creek Management Plan.   | Ongoing 27/3 - Members had a broad discussion with Mike Clark from Greening Australia. It was agreed GF would investigate whether DIPL will provide one off funding to DENR to provide to the committee to engage a consultant.  DIPL and DENR in discussions as to how this can be achieved.  |  |  |
|    | Neal Adamson                              | Circulate DoD's updated Bushfire Management Plan (for RAAF Base Darwin) to the Committee.  | Complete The Bushfire Management Plan was circulated to the committee in August 2018. The new plan is still to be approved and will be provided once finalised.  27/3 - It was agreed all member organisations would provide fire and weed management plans for circulation to committee members. It will also be made a standardised agenda item. |  |  |
|    | Ian Lancaster                             | Seek information about whether or not DIPL has done any Storm Water Management. Planning for the Berrimah North development.   | Completed Follow up regarding their Stormwater Management Plan. Push and lobby to ensure storm water structures are in place.  27/3 - tender for the flight path has been released.  |  |  |
|    | All members                               | RCWAC to actively participate in Storm Water Management for any developments in the catchment to ensure that effective planning is undertaken and that plans are properly implemented to mitigate impacts on both flooring and sedimentation of the creek. | Complete   |  |  |
|    | lan Lancaster                             | Get an update on the Rapid Creek Maintenance Program.  IL confirmed this action is referring to the removal of vegetation from under the Old McMillan's Road bridge and an ongoing maintenance program.  | Ongoing It was noted a number of trees including a black wattle was blown over by the cyclone. IL to confirm who the appropriate department is   |  |  |





|    |  | to take the lead on the removal of trees.  |
|----|--|--|
|    |  | GF to email IL and AC a copy of the Rapid Creek Management Plan.  27/3 - GF to provide an  |
|    |  | update out of session.   |
| 5. | Presentation from Mike Clark, Greening Australia.  | Mike Clark (MC), Greening Australia attended the RCWAC meeting. MC went onto explain the Urban Rivers and Corridors Program is a new initiative that will engage urban communities, Indigenous rangers and local councils in river bank restoration and corridor creation. It's an opportunity for States and Territories to nominate a river or waterway to be a part of the program and MC has nominated Rapid Creek. The outcomes for Rapid Creek could mean better water quality and biodiversity.  MC tabled a hand out (refer Attachment A) to provide |
|    |  | generic dot points of the project.   |
|    |  | MC asked if anyone members have ideas to include within the proposal to please let him know.   |
|    |  | KG suggested CDU be included in the proposal.  |
|    |  | IL would like to see the Plan of Management updated as part of this project or at the very least cross referenced.   |
|    |  | KG suggested engaging a consultant to draft the new plan<br>and to revaluate the values. IL advised there is no budget to<br>engage a consultant.  |
|    |  | TM asked if other avenues have been considered for funding. MC suggested approaching each organisation to donate funding to the cause. It was noted that it's unlikely the NT Government is in a position to contribute to the cause.  |
|    |  | GF implied that DIPL may provide one off funding to DENR to provide to the committee to engage a consultant.  Committee endorsed DIPL providing funding to DENR to   |
|    |  | fund the committee.  TM suggested integrating recreational facilities i.e. paths   |
|    |  | etc. into the proposal.  Further detail on the proposal can be found via the link <a href="https://www.tonyburke.com.au/urbanrivers">https://www.tonyburke.com.au/urbanrivers</a>  |
|    |  | Action: AC to email members to request comments/suggestions for the proposal and forward to MC within a week.  |
|    |  | Action: AC to forward prospectus to MC for information.  |
| 6. | Update on the; - Marrara Detention Basin - Flight path subdivision development - Rapid Creek Maintenance | Refer to GF update under agenda item 7.  |
|    | Program Framework  |  |





# 7. Report on Activities within the Catchment

#### **Neal Adamson - Department of Defence**

#### Weed Program Update

NA advised round one of weed treatment was conducted early February followed by a survey. Overall it was a good first round of treatment. It's expected the second round of treatment will commence mid to late April. NA confirmed Steve Wingrave is now managing the DoD weeds program.

PO flagged there is three metre high gamba and mission grass along the creek corridor on the northern side of Rapid Creek. NF confirmed Darwin International Airport manages the southern part and agreed there are some areas requiring attention. NF advised this has been noted on the communication list with DoD. Members sought clarity around whose responsibility it is to manage the land.

NA advised he is happy to provide regular reporting on weed control within the catchment; however, asked that other member organisations do the same. It was agreed IL would draft letters to organisations. RK asked that a letter also be included to the Darwin Aviation Museum to request fire and weed management plans.

Action: NA and NF to clarify agreement and who has responsibility, and to advise the committee of outcomes.

Action: weed and fire management reports to become a standardised agenda item.

Action: IL to draft letters to member organisations requesting existing management plans associated with fire and weeds are circulated amongst members prior to each meeting.

Action: GF to contact CSIRO to confirm if they have fire and weed management plans that can be circulated to member organisations.

# Fire Update

NA advised four evenings of controlled burns were scheduled for the week of 25 March. However, due to wet weather they didn't go ahead. All burns are done at night due to smoke attraction of birds to minimise impact to aircraft. All burns have been postponed until 28/3 pending dry weather. Wet season burns generally follow weed treatments and are designed to remove 10-15 percent of fuel load. It was noted the contractor is Ten Rivers. DM advised all burning within the emergency response area is controlled by the NT Fire and Rescue Service and requires a permit. They are now looking at Fire Fighting One Training as not suitable for burning within the emergency response areas. Parks are in negotiations now to confirm if more training is required. This will apply to all contractors burning within the emergency response areas.

### Dean McAdam - Parks and Wildlife

DM advised Power and Water contractors have undertaken vegetation clearing on Lakeside Drive. DM noted there is a research program looking at goannas at the Rapid Creek spit.

DM explained there is no governance around the drains at the Casuarina Coastal Reserve. It is left to Parks to manage the drains, not the council. Parks are looking at how this can





be rectified. A member of the community volunteers his time to spray caltrop. Parks hopes to continue having a good relationship with the volunteer to enable him to continue assisting with weed management.

DM noted an Expression of Interest went out to the public for pop up vans in Rapid Creek. Only two EOIs have been received.

#### **Nick Fewster - Darwin International Airport**

Nick advised weed management plans were completed five months ago. Steve Wingrave (SW) now prepares DIAs fire and weed management plans. SW is finding DIA has a high leaf litter in the riparian zone, which is good at supressing gamba grass and no burns are scheduled within the next 12 months. There was a couple of small unplanned fires recently between the Good Start Childcare Centre and the Caltex Service Station. No damage was caused to the mid or upper stories.

NF explained that the DoD PFAS Management Area Plan doesn't cover the Air Services fire station. DIA are working closely with Air Services to resolve. The foam transfer to the Solberg foam (doesn't contain PFAS) is currently being undertaken. Regular audits are being conducted and the contractor is providing a detailed Environmental Management Plan that matches the standards of the DoD management plan in accordance with PFAS.

NF flagged the Save Rapid Creek group posted on Facebook after a heavy rainfall about the recent turbidity. NF advised a regulatory was held and fish were identified in clear water. One construction site feeds into the channels which enter the creek; however, there are storm water controls in place and there was no evidence of high sediment.

# Robin Knox - City of Darwin

Robin reported that the Bush Care Weed Management Plan is back in place. Council are lobbying to get long term contracts back in place because the intermittent contracts aren't viable.

#### Karen Gibb - CDU

KG advised she is running an intensive class for two weeks each November to look at the CDU channel down towards the mouth, investigating bacteria and faecal markers. KG advised there are high levels of enterococcal e coli in the channel and that sediment sampling will be undertaken to observe the impact.

#### Peter O'Hagan - Rapid Creek Landcare Group

PO advised revegetation of the spit is underway. 150 trees were recently planted but due to a lack of rain some trees have not survived and manual watering is been conducted. Coffee bush removal along the mangrove verge is also underway.

# **Graeme Finch - DIPL**

#### Rapid Creek Detention Basin

All walls and internal drains have been installed. Asbestos contained soil was identified in the basin. It appears that sometime after Cyclone Tracy fill was spread over the basin.





|    |  | PFAS and asbestos auditors are required to sign off on plans. Excavating the bank back and putting the bank back over it which will ensure any asbestos is contained outside the flood affected water.   |
|----|--|--|
|    |  | Current program will be completed by early June. Bare areas are all glued and traffic is being restricted to manage the erosion. DIPL are looking at putting the main drain under Henry Wriggly drive. Marrara drains will then be connected to the basin. Engineers are designing low flow drain. The challenge is picking up the high flows.   |
|    |  | End land use hasn't been resolved and remains in discussion as to what will happen with the grassed area. There is some revegetation in the contract with an aim to get it back to natural bush as it won't require a lot of maintenance.  |
|    |  | Berrimah North  A tender was released for flight path road and are being assessed. Due to be awarded in the coming weeks. Does include a dry detention basin up the Amy Johnson side. Project is to collect the water off the road and transfer to a basin. DoD and airports have approved the design. The detention basin sits on the restricted development land to the south of private land and will be slashed under DIPL cyclical management plan. Land Owners have recently sprayed their land. There is a bit of noise starting to the north. DIPL are about to award a contract for the sewer design. The blocks north of boulter road have services. There will be no further development until all other land has |
|    |  | services.  Rapid Creek Maintenance Program Framework   |
|    |  | Members sought an update on the status of the Rapid Creek Maintenance Program Framework and the timeframe for implementation. GF advised he would have to follow up.   |
|    |  | Action: GF to provide an update out of session.  |
|    |  | Julia Schult - Aquatic Health Unit (DENR)  |
|    |  | Julia sent the link to the updated website which has been made more informative. Coming up to next monitoring round in May/June. Working on fish monitoring methods which is an ongoing project. The last trial didn't pick up a lot of fish and the method is being altered to improve the method to capture more species of fish. Ongoing monitoring of PFAS – DENR won't be monitoring this year because it's repeating what defence contractors are doing.   |
|    |  | Timothy Moore - Community Representative   |
|    |  | TM advised work continues on re-zoning areas within the flood zone.  |
| 8. | Update regarding the Fire and<br>Weed Management Plan and<br>Maps                              | Refer to NA update under agenda item 7.  |
| 9. | Update on the revision to the Rapid Creek Management Plan                                      | Refer to item 5.   |
|    | Other Business   | Nil.   |
|    | Weed Management Plan and<br>Maps  Update on the revision to the<br>Rapid Creek Management Plan | of PFAS – DENR won't be monitoring this year because repeating what defence contractors are doing.  Timothy Moore – Community Representative  TM advised work continues on re-zoning areas within flood zone.  Refer to NA update under agenda item 7.  Refer to item 5.   |





| Actions arising from meeting 27 March 2019 |   |                            |  |  |
|--|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| Action Officer Action                      |   | Status                     |  |  |
| AC   | Presentation from Mike Clark  - Email members requesting comments or suggestions for the proposal and forward to MC before 5 April.                                     | Complete                   |  |  |
| AC   | - Forward example for prospectus to MC for information  | Complete                   |  |  |
| NA & NF                                    | Weed Program Update - Clarify agreement and who has responsibility, and to advise the committee of outcomes.  | New                        |  |  |
| AC   | - Weed and Fire Management Reports to become a standard agenda item.  | Complete                   |  |  |
| IL   | - IL to draft letters to member organisations requesting existing management plans associated with fire and weeds are circulated amongst members prior to each meeting. | Complete                   |  |  |
| GF   | - Contact CSIRO to confirm if they have fire and weed management plans that can be circulated to member organisations.  | New                        |  |  |
| GF   | Rapid Creek Maintenance Program Framework - Update to be provided out of session.   | New                        |  |  |
| 10.  | Next Meeting  | First week of June 2019    |  |  |
|  | Meeting closed  | Meeting closed at 11:00 am |  |  |