

Adelaide River water advisory committee

Date: Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Time: 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Location: Orange 6, Room B - Batchelor Institute, Corner Awilla Road and Nurdina Crescent, Batchelor

Attendance		
Name (Initials)	Position and representation	
Darryl Day (Chair)	Independent chair	
Cherrian Luxton (CL)	Member, Community, local government	
Christine Jenner (CJ)	Member, Aboriginal, community, environment	
Christine Thomsen (CT)	Member, Aboriginal	
David Ciaravolo (DC)	Member, Community, tourism or recreation	
David George Yates (DGY)	Member, Aboriginal	
David Gray (DG)	Member, Agriculture, community	
Peter Shappert (PS)	Member, Agriculture, tourism or recreation	
Petrina Yates (PY)	Member, Aboriginal	
Phillip Goodman (PG)	Member, Aboriginal	
Mark Thompson (MT)	Observer	
Georgina Yates (GY)	Observer	
DEPWS staff		
Phillipa Hunter (PH)	Director Water Management	
Amy Dysart (AD)	Executive Director Water Resources	
Toni Thomson (TT)	Committees & Engagement Officer	
Chris Parker (CP)	Engagement Officer	
Jessica Huxley (JH)	Manager, Surface Water	
Adrian Coster (AC)	Director Water Assessment	
Narada Dayarathne (ND)	Water Planner	
Not in attendance		
Name	Position and representation	Notes
Kathleen Thomsen	Member, Aboriginal	Apology
Jeffrey Huddlestone	Member, Aboriginal, agriculture, community, environment	Apology
Phillip Yates	Member, Aboriginal	Apology
Denzel Yates	Member, Aboriginal, community, environment	Non-Attendance
Jacqueline Maria Goodman	Member, Aboriginal	Non-Attendance
Tarizma Kenyon	Member, Aboriginal	Non-Attendance

1. Meeting Opening & Governance

Meeting opened: 8:56am.

1.1. Welcome, welcome to Country & Meeting purpose

Chair introductions

Welcome to Country

PG welcomed the committee to Country.

Meeting Purpose

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

1.2 Attendance & Introduction, Evaluation nominee, Confirmation of agenda

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

Members emphasised that they hope the department and the Minister listen to local people, including the committee. Members also spoke about the importance of science, noting science is an understanding of how things work, and people who live in the catchment have their understanding of how the catchment works, and that the committee hope both sciences, traditional and local knowledge are able to be reflected in the water plan.

Evaluation Nominee

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

Confirm Agenda

Agenda confirmed.

1.3 Committee's 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. Members noted they liked the idea of continuity, as it provided confidence that any priority actions will be delivered.

Chair noted the Terms of reference do not allow for proxies, as this ensured that attendee's were not brought into the plan development without the appropriate background.

Members agreed the development of an Interest Register, to assist with any perceived or actual conflicts of interest noting, by definition, all members of the committee had an interest in the Adelaide River.

1.3 Confirm upcoming meeting dates

Future meeting topics and ideas were discussed.

Committee broke for Morning tea at 10:16am – 10.32am

2. Items for discussion

2.1 Presentation: Water management in the Northern Territory.

The department provided an overview of water management in the Northern Territory, including the role of:

- the Water Act 1992
- water plans and water extraction licences,
- the role of the Minister and the Controller of Water Resources,
- the role of water advisory committees, and
- regulation of water use in the Adelaide River.

The committee discussed the reasoning for the development of a water plan in the Adelaide River, and the make-up of committee members.

2.2 Presentation: Hydrology of the Adelaide River

The department provided an overview of the existing science on the Adelaide River. The presentation touched on the known data regarding:

- Rainfall and climate
- Stream flow
- Geography and topography
- Water quality
- Current scientific investigations occurring in the catchment to inform the development of a plan.

Committee broke for lunch 12:00 – 12:43pm

Committee returned from lunch and asked questions and discussed some of the science projects, including partnerships and the work going on in the catchment.

2.3 Presentation: Sharing water: Outcomes and objectives

Department provided an overview of the purpose of water planning, including the objectives and outcomes that guide the development of the plan, and the implementation actions during the life of the plan. The committee discussed this being the first surface water plan, and as such, hope the objectives and outcomes reflect this.

2.4 Workshop: Objectives

Chair facilitated a workshop for the committee to identify their values of the catchment. These were at times, themed with the prioritisation of water: environmental values, cultural values, including Aboriginal cultural values, water for drinking and homes, and water for businesses and jobs, including water for aboriginal economic development.

Committee broke for Afternoon tea 3:15 – 3.32

2.5 Summary of meeting by the Chair

Chair summarised the key messages and events of the meeting

2.6 Meeting Evaluation

Completed by nominated member

2.7 Confirm next meeting date

Next meeting dates confirmed

Meeting Close 3:52