

# Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday 28 March 2022  
**Time:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm  
**Chair:** Nick Fewster, Airport Development Group

**Location:** Territory Conference Room, Ground Floor, Development House, 76 Esplanade Darwin  
**Secretariat:** Carmony Leso, Executive Officer – Committees (DEPWS)

**Attendees:** Graeme Finch  
Jade Leask  
Julia Schult  
Karen Gibb  
Louise Kearn – *Proxy (Teams)*  
Michael Clarke – *Proxy*  
Neal Adamson – *Teams*

DIPL  
City of Darwin  
Water Resources Division, DEPWS  
Charles Darwin University (CDU)  
Parks and Wildlife, DEPWS  
Rapid Creek Landcare Group  
Department of Defence (DoD)

**Apologies** Dean McAdam  
Lisa Peters  
Morgan Richard

Parks and Wildlife, DEPWS  
Rapid Creek Landcare Group  
City of Darwin

No.	Item	Action (e.g. Noting / Discussion / Decision)
	<b>Meeting opened</b>	The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee (RCWAC) meeting opened at 2:00pm
1	<b>Welcome attendance and apologies</b>	Chairperson, Nick Fewster, opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the 16 <sup>th</sup> meeting. Apologies were noted from Lisa Peters, Morgan Rickard and Dean McAdam. Nick request that any members unable to attend a meeting to please ensure they send a proxy. Nick advised that he will follow up on a Larrakia representative to join the committee. <b>Action: Nick to follow up on a Larrkia representative to join the committee.</b>
2	<b>Conflicts of Interest</b>	No conflicts declared.
3	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	The minutes of the previous meeting on 1 December 2022 were circulated to the Committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits. The minutes were accepted with no further changes.
4	<b>Actions arising from the previous meeting (1 December 2021)</b>	
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Officer</b> <b>Status / Update</b>
	<b>Land Rezoning</b> Ian Lancaster will draft letters to CoD and the Northern Territory Government (NTG)	City of Darwin <b>In progress</b> Jade reported that CoD want the land rezoned to

requesting transfer of the land and send RCWAC members for their approval		conservation as the adjacent block is conservation and that process will take time.
<b>Gross Pollutant Traps</b> CoD advised that there were thirteen with limited data	City of Darwin	<b>In progress</b> Is on hold due to the wet season. Post wet season Jade will have a discussion with the field staff about how it moves forward and will provide an update at the next meeting.
<b>Fire and Weed Management Plans</b> Contact DIPL, CoD and CDU for an update on where their Weed and Fire Management Plan are up to.	Nick Fewster	<b>Complete</b> Nick suggested having an appendix in the minutes that tracks the plans and when they are due for an update. <i>Action: Carmony to add an appendix to the minutes for the Fire and Weed Management Plans</i>
Include communication issues with Ministers offices in the Communique to Minister Lawler	Nick Fewster	<b>Complete</b>
Invite representatives from DIPL to the next RCWAC to present to the committee on flooding and mapping around the Rapid Creek catchment.	Nick Fewster	<b>Complete</b>
Contact DIPL about the patch of natural bush on the detention basin in Rapid Creek that needs maintenance.	Nick Fewster	<b>Ongoing</b> Email sent to Graeme Finch on 18 February 2022
Send previous meeting minutes and other relevant documents to Jade and Morgan upon their appointment to the Committee.	Carmony Leso	<b>Complete</b>
Write a letter to the department of behalf of the Committee regarding the future status of the Water Resources Division Monitoring Program.	Nick Fewster	<b>Complete</b> Letter sent and received by Jo and a response is pending.
Develop a project scope for possible CDU PHD students to undertake some monitoring in the catchment.	All members	<b>In progress</b> Karen noted that CDU have to promote projects as students are not knocking at the door at any university. Following on from the work that will be done around the DEPWS Water Monitoring, the committee could identify possible areas that could lend themselves to a hypothesis driven, 3 year PHD project. Karen advised that she is comfortable that she could

			identify such a thing. Once a scope has been developed it will need to be actively promoted.
	Send through Steven Garnett's Rapid Creek bird monitoring proposal to the committee	Karen Gibb	<b>Complete</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>		
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Correspondence out</b>	<p>The following incoming correspondence was tabled at the meeting for noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communique to the Minister</li> <li>• Letter to Jo Townsend re DEPWS Water Monitoring</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion: Julia advised that there won't be any new monitoring created from this, it's more about collating existing data and finding ways to report on it as well as identifying gaps and making recommendations for what could happen in the future. Julia recommended having a separate meeting to specifically discuss and workshop a report.</i></p> <p><i>Nick suggested the department collate all existing water monitoring data into a table of sites and parameters as a starting point so they can get a feel for the size of the information they will be working with.</i></p> <p><i>Karen suggested having a page on this activity included as an attachment in the Darwin Harbour Integrated Report Card (DHIRC) as it can act as a communication tool. Karen will suggest this to Simon Costanzo, the consultant working on the DHIRC.</i></p> <p><i>Julia suggested the committee considers how this is presented, who is going to host it and what is it going to look like? Julia suggested that initially it could be featured on the department's website or a stakeholder on the committee could nominate to host it.</i></p> <p><b>Action: Jonathan Burcher to put the DEPWS Water Monitoring data into a table for the committee.</b></p> <p><b>Action: members to hold an out of session meeting to workshop a report on the DEPWS Water Monitoring data</b></p>	
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Correspondence in</b>	<p>The following outgoing correspondence was tabled at the meeting for noting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministers letter re the Communique</li> </ul>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Flood Mitigation Strategy</b>	<p>Graeme Finch provided the committee with an update on DIPLs Flood Mitigation Strategy for Rapid Creek.</p> <p>Graeme reported that Rapid Creek is at risk of Q100 Flooding. A combination of measures are being put in place to manage flooding in Rapid Creek. These measures range from an early warning system, improved maintenance, structural mitigation, and planning and rezoning.</p> <p>The Q100 Flood Mitigation will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood affected properties being reduced from 67 to 24;</li> <li>• Flood peak being reduced so that properties can be redeveloped above the flood without impacting on the character of the neighbourhood;</li> <li>• The basin has potential to support other public space uses when it is not holding water.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post construction, the Rapid Creek Flood Map has been provided to the NFID</li> </ul>
7	Natural Asset List	Postpone to next meeting.
8	CDU Rapid Creek Wildlife Movements Project	<p>The CDU Rapid Creek Wildlife Movements Project was tabled at the meeting for the committee's feedback.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Jade advised that City of Darwin would be able to allocate funds for this project. Nick advised that the airport would also be likely to allocate funds once a funding proposal was formed. Nick suggested himself, Jade and the Rapid Creek Landcare Group discuss jointly investing in this project.</i></p> <p><i>Action: Nick Fewster, Jade Leask and a member of the Rapid Creek Landcare Group to discuss jointly investing in the CDU Rapid Creek Wildlife Movements Project</i></p>
9	Member Reports on activities	
9.1	Water Resources, DEPWS	Julia reported that she is moving to a different division in the department until the end of the year and Jonathan Burcher will be attending the committee meetings as her proxy for the duration of that time.
9.2	Rapid Creek Landcare Group	<p>Michael tabled a report from the Rapid Creek Landcare Group. At the Spit - continued monitoring grass and weeds, spear grass, some mission and buffel grass, no gamba grass.</p> <p>Working bees held to reduce grass and weed fuel load, some herbicide spraying, brush cutting and hand pulling was undertaken and some bagged and removed from the site. Parks rangers completed two mows of the site. Hopefully no need for fuel reduction burn and no deliberately lit fires this upcoming dry season.</p> <p>Some in fill planting with members propagating plants.</p> <p>Two working bees undertaken, October and March, specifically to clean up coffee bush new and regrowth along the mangrove verge from the creek mouth to Trower Road. This will need to be an ongoing annual activity.</p> <p>Since July 2021 there has been 67 individual attendances by members and supporters resulting in 188 hours of volunteer work.</p> <p>RCLG members have also attended working bees for Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare and Lee Point Gamba mapping and eradication.</p>
9.3	City of Darwin	Jade reported that an EOI is out for contract to undertake City of Darwin's Biodiversity, Weed and Fire Management Plan. They will be separate plans within one plan. Jade reported that CoD are behind with their weed work due to contractor issues but that should commence again shortly. Jade reported there has been a change internally and CoD will have urban bushland crews again.
9.4	Parks and Wildlife Division (PWD)	Louise reported that PWD are gearing up for the fire season and are still underway with their weed work. The Gamba Army is also working away. The Adopt A Spot group is working in Casuarina Coastal Reserve on the Gamba Grass outliers with rangers also doing weed spraying. PWD is hoping to have Gamba eradicated in the Casuarina area in the next three years.
9.5	Airport Development Group	Nick reported roads project continues and a natural detention has been able to be created on the western side of Henry Wriggley. The hotel is being re

		developed and a lot will be happening in that space for the remainder of the year. Airports is looking at drainage study and undertaking a master planning exercise for Darwin Airport the next 8 years and doing an aggregation for the future development that could happen. The Gurumbai trail is being upgraded which will include pathway upgrades, seating and signage and tours.
9.6	Department of Defence	Neal reported that DoD has conducted their wet season burns with a 30 – 60% fuel reduction. DoD are also now onto their second round of weed control.
9.7	DILPL	Graeme advised that the Detention Basin has been included in DIPLs Weed Management Contracts.
<b>10</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	
10.1	Malak Caravan Park Planning Application	Nick advised that the Malak Caravan Park Planning Application is out for comment. Nick will draft a letter on behalf of the committee for submission. <i>Action: Nick to draft ad submit a letter on behalf of the committee in relation to the Malak Caravan Park Planning Application.</i>
10.2	Rapid Creek Plan of Management Priority Actions	Nick advised that he will send out an amended list out of session for member’s feedback. Nick will then update the Rapid Creek Plan of Management reflecting these changes. <i>Action: Nick to send out an updated Rapid Creek Plan of Management Priority Action list to members for their feedback.</i>
11	Next meeting	The next meeting will be held in June 2022.
	Meeting closed	The meeting concluded at 4:00pm

## Actions arising from the meeting

No.	Action	Action officer	Timeframe
1	Follow up on a Larrkia representative to join the committee	Nick Fewster	
2	Add an appendix to the minutes for the Fire and Weed Management Plans	Carmony Leso	
3	Put the DEPWS Water Monitoring data into a table for the committee.	Jonathan Burcher	
4	Hold an out of session meeting to workshop a report on the DEPWS Water Monitoring data	All members	
5	Meet and discuss jointly investing in the CDU Rapid Creek Wildlife Movements Project	Nick Fewster, Jade Leask and the Rapid Creek Landcare Group	
6	Draft ad submit a letter on behalf of the committee in relation to the Malak Caravan Park Planning Application	Nick Fewster	
7	Send out an updated Rapid Creek Plan of Management Priority Action list to members for their feedback	Nick Fewster	

