Meeting Minutes

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| Date: | 13 May 2024 | Location: | Finke Meeting Room, 4th Floor, Goyder |
| Time: | 9:00am – 11:00am |  | Centre, 25 Chun Wah Terrace, Palmerston |
| Chair: | Nick Fewster, City of Darwin | Secretariat: | Parul Chandel, A/Executive Officer Committees, DEPWS |

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| Attendees: | Louise Kean Proxy *for Dean*  Jonathon Burcher  Katina Croft *– Teams*  Peter O’Hagan *Proxy for Lisa*  Dylan Irvine  Racheal Curtain  Timothy Moore - *Teams*  Julie Whiting | Parks and Wildlife Division  Water Resources Division  Department of Defence (DoD)  Rapid Creek Landcare Group (RCLCG)  Charles Darwin University (CDU)  Crown Land, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL)  Community member  Airport Development Group (ADG) |
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| Apologies: | Morgan Rickard  Steven Dawson | City of Darwin (CoD)  Larrakia Nation |
| Guests: | Mike Clark | Project Officer - Darwin Harbour Catchment Waterways Project |

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| **No.** | **Item** | **Action** (e.g. Noting / Discussion / Decision) | | |
|  | **Meeting opened** | The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee (RCWAC) meeting opened at 9:03 am. | | |
| **1** | **Welcome attendance and apologies** | Chairperson, Nick Fewster, opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the 26th meeting. He provided an Acknowledgement of Country.  Apologies were noted from Morgan Rickard, and Steven Dawson. | | |
| **2** | **Conflicts of Interest** | No conflicts declared. Tim advised that he is a Native plant supplier. | | |
| **3** | **Minutes of the previous meeting** | The minutes of the previous meeting on 26 February 2024 were circulated to the Committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits. Peter approved the minutes and Louise seconded the minutes. | | |
| 4 | **Actions arising from the previous meetings** | | | |
|  | **Action** | | **Action Officer** | **Status / Update** |
| **Land Rezoning**  Small parcel of land to the north-east of Henry Wrigley Bridge. | | Nick Fewster | **In progress**  City of Darwin is working with DIPL to acquire the parcel of land.  **Action:**  Nick will seek to provide DIPL with a request from City of Darwin |
| **Gross Pollutant Traps**  Assess additional gross pollutant traps for the catchment | | Nick Fewster | **Completed**  The Committee discussed the Urban Rivers Program as a priority item. After exploring options, the team decided against submitting a grant application for gross pollutant traps as no suitable sites were found. Peter suggested smaller traps could be effective, while Louise proposed a boom to trap debris. Nick suggested an opportunity upstream of Marrara that could be organized by DIPL and Tim emphasized the need for an assessment first. The group identified further assessment and data collection as next steps. |
| **NTG Contractor weed control**  Key land areas under the contract with prolific weed growth. | | Wendy Pengelly  Rachael | **Completed**  Rachel advised about the program servicing being undertaken and work already done. |
| **Stormwater management Policy** Provide update on any Defence policies that relate to / support no net increase in environmental flows from developments. | | Katina Croft | **In progress**  Katina advised it is put in draft instruction, waiting for final signoff. |
|  | **Gurambai trail footpath construction in wet season** | | Julie Whiting | **Completed** |
| **5** | **Urban Rivers Program - New Darwin Harbour Catchment Waterways Project** | Mike Clarke presented the following key points:   * Urban rivers and catchment program objectives * Project summary and on-ground works * Federal government's funding stance * Challenges with gross pollutants * Emphasis on community involvement * Model summary of Roseland's community capital framework * Project focus within Darwin Harbour catchment * Rapid Creek ecosystem and communication connectivity improvement * Eligible and ineligible activities * Project governance and stakeholder involvement * Project phase 1 details   **Action:**   * Plan date session to be sent by Mike to Parul, who will then distribute it to the members. * Parul to reach out to relevant members to request flora and fauna surveys for Mike. Urban catchment spreadsheet with issues and opportunities for the planning day will be sent by e-mail to the members. | | |
| **7** | **Future monitoring and reporting on Rapid Creek health** | Topic to be discussed in next meeting. | | |
| **8** | **Correspondence** | | | |
| **8.1** | **Correspondence in** | The following incoming correspondence was tabled at the meeting for noting:   1. Rapid Creek sub-catchment modelling   ***Attachment 3: Drainage Channel University Drive***   1. Darwin Airport 2023 Master Plan   ***Attachmen*t 4: *Response to Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee submission***   1. Gurambai Cultural Trail   ***Attachment 5: ADG Project Update*** | | |
| 9 | **Process for sharing of committee correspondence** | To ensure seamless communication, Nick will be included as a cc in all relevant emails from members. All members were advised that correspondence be channelled through the secretariat and committee chair. | | |
| 10 | **Member Reports on activities** | | | |
| **10.1** | **Rapid Creek Landcare Group (RCLCG)** | Peter discussed project updates, including fire breaks and control burns with the City of Darwin. Tall grass behind the Lakeside Drive area is being cleared. Progress is being made on the Spit project and there is community interest in Alawa about clearance of vegetation. Trees obstructing drains under Charles Eaton Drive are being managed to prevent further damage. | | |
| **10.2** | **Parks and Wildlife** | Louise reported the recommencing of burning to complete weed clearing, and getting involved with Landcare project. | | |
| **10.3** | **City of Darwin (CoD)** | Nick discussed the correspondence provided by City of Darwin regarding gross pollutant traps. Nick suggested that the committee respond to ADG on their outstanding Gurambai Trail project. The committee reached a consensus to circulate a draft feedback letter to all members, emphasizing the high levels of engagement, successful completion of the Gurambai Trail, and concerns about sediment and stormwater management.  **Action:**   * Nick and Tim will discuss the response letter from ADG outside the meeting and sent to the committee for comment. | | |
| **10.4** | **Department of Defence (DoD)** | Katina reported that the weed programme for the current season has ended and the quality assessment report is still pending. The program has been satisfactory, with some early dry burns occurring recently. Feedback on these issues is welcome from members. | | |
| **10.5** | **Charles Darwin University (CDU)** | Dylan expressed excitement about the increased engagement from the up and coming CDU research projects. | | |
| **10.6** | **Airport Development Group (ADG)** | Julie advised Darwin International Airport is planning a large landscaping project pending approval from the federal government. The project will involve earthworks and tree planting across the estate, including the roundabout. Community feedback is expected at the next meeting, and the project aims to align with the landscaping master plan at DIA. | | |
| **10.7** | **Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL)** | Racheal discussed the weed control in the Marrara Basin and the ongoing second round of weed control. She mentioned a significant amount of rubbish in the area, mainly from day drinkers and bush camps. She also mentioned a previous issue with a GPT net in the drain behind the netball facility, which was clogged with vegetation during large rainfall events. Graham, suggested installing an inline GPT system to capture sediment waste at the source, which is currently being monitored by the City of Darwin for handover. Racheal advised that this system may be implemented in the future. | | |
| **10.8** | **Tim Moore** | Tim queried will a meeting be organized to advice on urban catchment issues, Nick advised it might be with a spreadsheet for each member listing their issues and opportunities and each member listing what they want. Tim advised that an auspice is being organized by Landcare NT and City of Darwin at Jingili Water Gardens. Tim will share information about the event with the group, including details about the event and potential attendees or stallholders. | | |
| **10.9** | **Water Resources** | The committee has been working on various options for reporting and securing resources. The next step is to develop a project plan. The options include developing a basic departmental website, a more descriptive report card, or engaging consultants like Simon Costanzo from KPR. It might also be beneficial to involve the Airport Development group and others with a vested interest in this matter. The committee needs to agree on the options and develop a project plan. Before developing the plan, it is important to get an idea from NTG about their future commitment on monitoring and reporting for Rapid Creek over the next 5 years. The committee should contact Jessica Huxley, the manager, to discuss the project plan and discuss the goals and objectives. | | |
| **11** | **Other Business** | The meeting will be kept at a two-hour schedule, with an extra half-hour for additional time. | | |
| **12** | **Next meeting** | The next meeting will be held in August 2024. | | |
| **13** | **Meeting closed** | The meeting concluded at 10:50 am. | | |

Actions arising from the meeting

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| No. | Action | Action officer |
| 1 | Will seek to provide DIPL with a request from City of Darwin. | Nick |
| 2 | Urban Rivers planning session date to be sent by Mike to Parul, who will then distribute it to the members. | Mike and Parul |
| 3 | Reach out to relevant members and get their catchment plans for flora, fauna and water baseline surveys and assessment. Provide the information to Mike. | Parul |
| 4 | Urban catchment spread sheet with issues and opportunities for the planning day will be sent by e-mail to the members. | Nick |
| 5 | Will discuss the response letter for ADG and sent to the committee for confirmation. | Nick and Tim |

Appendix A – Weed and Fire Management Plans

*Some clarification on reports received is required*

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| Plan | Organisation | Date created | Due for review |
| Charles Darwin University | Weed Plan | 2021 | 2026 |
| Fire Plan | 2021 | 2026 |
| City of Darwin | Weed Plan | 2023 | 2028 |
| Fire Plan | 2023 | 2028 |
| Darwin Airport Development Group | Weed Plan | 2021 | 2023 |
| Fire Plan | 2021 | 2023 |
| Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics | Weed Plan | 2020 | 2025 |
| Fire Plan | - | - |
| Department of Defence | Weed Plan | 2022 | 2024 |
| Fire Plan | 2022 | 2024 |
| Parks and Wildlife | Weed Plan | 2020 | 2022 |
| Fire Plan | 2021 | - |