

# RAPID CREEK WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES – MEETING 13

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 10 September 2020	<b>Location:</b>	Level 14 Boardroom
<b>Time:</b>	2:00 – 4:00 pm		Charles Darwin Centre, 19 The Mall, Darwin
<b>Chair:</b>	Ian Lancaster	<b>Secretariat:</b>	Anna Maxted, DEPWS (Secretariat)
<b>Attendees:</b>	Dean McAdam (DM) Peter O’Hagan (PO) (Proxy for LP) Neal Adamson (NA) Nick Fewster (NF) Julia Schult (JS) Robin Knox (RK) Timothy Moore (TM) Graeme Finch (GF) Jeff Richardson (JR) (Guest) Felicity Watt (FW) (Guest)		Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security Rapid Creek Landcare Group Department of Defence Darwin International Airport Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security City of Darwin Community Representative Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics EcOz Environmental Consulting EcOz Environmental Consulting
<b>Apologies:</b>	Lisa Peters (LP) Prof. Karen Gibb (KG)		Rapid Creek Landcare Group Charles Darwin University

Agenda No.	Agenda Item	Action Required (e.g. information / discussion / decision)
	<b>Meeting open</b>	The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 2:02 pm.
1.	<b>Welcome, Attendance and Apologies</b>	Chairperson, Ian Lancaster, opened and welcomed members to the 13th meeting. Apologies were noted from Lisa Peters and Prof. Karen Gibb. Peter O’Hagan attended as a proxy for Lisa Peters. Jeff Richardson and Felicity Watt, EcOz Environmental Consulting, attended the meeting to speak to the draft Plan of Management.
2.	<b>Conflicts of Interest</b>	Nil.
3.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	The minutes of previous meeting on 7 February 2020 were circulated to the committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits. The minutes were accepted by the Committee.
4.	<b>Actions arising from the previous meeting 12 (7 February 2020)</b>	
	<b>Action Officer</b>	<b>Action</b>
	Robin Knox	<b>Land Rezoning</b> Update on the rezoning of lots 2495 and 5249 to conservation to improve conservation of the area.
		<b>Status/Update</b> <b>Complete</b> On 5 November 2014 the Rapid Creek Landcare Group asked if the area could be rezoned as conservation. This was agreed to in 2015 and completed on 6 March 2020.

5.	<b>Transfer of land “wedge” from the Northern Territory Government to City of Darwin</b>	<p>Robin Knox provided an update on the land “wedge”. Robin explained the land “wedge” area between the City of Darwin land and the drain (between McMillans Road and Henry Wrigley Drive) is owned by the Northern Territory Government. The Rapid Creek Landcare Group have asked if City of Darwin can take ownership of the land in order to make maintenance easier, as the land would be covered by the same City of Darwin contract used to manage the adjacent City of Darwin land. The Northern Territory Government is prepared to transfer this land to City of Darwin. To progress this RCWAC could draft a letter to City of Darwin and the Northern Territory Government requesting transfer of the land.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Ian Lancaster will draft letters to City of Darwin and the Northern Territory Government requesting transfer of the land, and send these to RCWAC members for their approval.</p>
6.	<b>Rapid Creek Plan of Management Feedback Session</b>	<p>Jeff Richardson from EcOz Environmental Consulting spoke to the draft Plan of Management.</p> <p><b>Vision</b></p> <p>Jeff spoke about the drafting of the vision based on previous Plans of Management which focused on natural assets. The Plan of Management needs to identify: assets; which stakeholders are responsible for assets; which stakeholders manage assets; and which stakeholders impact on assets. Recommendations will be provided based on this information. The aim of the Plan of Management will be for land managers to write their own land management plans to fulfil their obligations under the Plan of Management. The landholder’s management plans will be provided to RCWAC. Table 4-2 shows who is responsible for each risk factor.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the addition of assets including cultural and infrastructure assets to the vision. Tim Moore raised the issue of the Plan of Management being too broad, and suggested values be specific. However a decision would have to be made on how specific each priority is. Dean McAdam noted that managing natural assets would allow for maintenance of cultural values, for example swimming and fishing. Robin Knox pointed out that man-made recreational assets also require management, and how industrial development that impacts the catchment should be captured in the Plan of Management, which could direct responsibility. Tim raised the role of the Committee, which is to protect everything that is valued by the community with regard to the Rapid Creek. The intent of Plan of Management should be to protect fauna and water quality, but not to mismanage the Creek in a way that undermines infrastructure.</p> <p>Discussion was had around the fact that whilst the Plan of Management may outline landholder deliverables, landholders will not have any extra resources for this and therefore specific deliverables may not be achieved. Ian Lancaster suggested the Plan of Management should outline relatively specific priorities and landholders would understand which related to them. The Plan of Management may place some pressure on landholders, reinforce public opinion and could be used as an aspirational document. The possibility of the Plan of Management providing an audit for land manager’s documents was raised.</p> <p>Julia Schult pointed out that the Committee is unable to compel landholders to deliver anything, and given this, the Plan of Management should outline the priorities to direct management by landholders. In addition, the Plan of Management is a reference document to guide other</p>

	<p>management plans, and the vision can be broad and could include assets that aren't currently being managed. Nick Fewster raised the need to consider what can be actively managed, and the opportunity to be more specific on key issues for the catchment to build stronger expectations of each landholder.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the possibility of recommending a website to allow aspects of the Plan of Management to evolve rather than it being another a static document.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the possibility of suggesting to some land managers the priority concerns about the catchment and develop key performance indicators to grade performance. Guidance notes on management plans could be helpful, particularly to guide community engagement, for example guides for signage projects or pathway projects.</p> <p><b>Knowledge gaps</b></p> <p>Jeff spoke to the issue of knowledge gaps. Whilst the condition of the catchment should not decrease, available information is poor and the recommendations will include the need for new information, for example vegetation mapping. Jeff asked the committee if a recommendation for possibility of publically available water quality monitoring data should be included in the Plan of Management.</p> <p>Ian explained this had been discussed by the Committee multiple times before, and that DEPWS and Darwin Airports would be willing to publish interpreted data only. Julia advised the Committee that very little water quality data is currently been collected by the DEPWS, and this is all publically available. Darwin Airports and the Department of Defence probably collect the most data, with Defence publishing a lot of data. Julia said it was unlikely that the data would ever be able to collated and published in one place. Julia suggested that maybe the Plan of Management should link to the publicly available data. Tim asked about the Northern Territory Government's plan to make modelling information more accessible. Graeme Finch explained most of this project was looking at better understanding the data. The Committee agreed the best available data should be available to the community, for example on a website.</p> <p><b>Asset risks (Section 4.1)</b></p> <p>Jeff drew the Committees attention to the Asset risks section of the draft Plan of Management, advising that infrastructure could be incorporated into this section.</p> <p>Tim advised that residents would like post development flows to be no higher than predevelopment flows. Graeme said new subdivision development guidelines require that post development flows be no higher than predevelopment flows. Tim said Defence and Darwin Airports are exempt from this requirement and are the primary contributors to stormwater flooding, and proposed that the requirement for post development flows to be no higher than predevelopment flows be a key performance indicator. Neal Adamson advised Defence subscribes to this measure. Graeme informed the Committee that there will be 12 detention basins in Berrimah north, with three already built. The Committee agreed that a goal of the Plan of Management would be that post development flows be no higher than predevelopment flows.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Jeff talked though the draft recommendations.</p> <p>Nick said there should be a recommendation about promoting catchment values where appropriate.</p>
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7.	Next meeting	The next meeting will be scheduled for late November or early December.	
<b>Actions arising from meeting (10 September 2020)</b>			
<b>8.</b>	<b>Action Officer</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
8.1	Ian Lancaster	<p><b>Land Rezoning</b></p> <p>Ian Lancaster will draft letters to City of Darwin and the Northern Territory Government requesting transfer of the land and send RCWAC members for their approval.</p>	
8.2	Robin Knox	<p><b>Gross Pollutant Traps</b></p> <p>Robin was advised that there were thirteen with limited data, and agreed to follow this up with the City of Darwin.</p>	
8.3	Jeff Richardson	<p><b>Plan of Management</b></p> <p>Jeff will draft objectives and send these to members.</p>	
9.	Meeting closed	The meeting was closed at 4.05pm.	