

RAPID CREEK WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES – MEETING 11

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| Date: | 24 September 2019 | Location: | Arafura Meeting Room Development House 76 The Esplanade, Darwin |
| Time: | 9:00 am – 11:00 am | Secretariat: | Amy Cooper, DENR (Secretariat) |
| Chair: | Ian Lancaster | | |
| Attendees: | Prof. Karen Gibb (KG) Julia Schult (JS) Dean McAdam (DM) Peter O’Hagan (Proxy for LP) Robin Knox (RK) Neal Adamson (NA) Graeme Finch (GF) | | Charles Darwin University Department of Environment and Natural Resources Department of Tourism and Culture Rapid Creek Landcare Group City of Darwin Department of Defence Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics |
| Apologies: | Lisa Peters (LP) Timothy Moore (TM) | | Rapid Creek Landcare Group Community Representative |
| Guest: | John O’Dwyer (JO) Nick Fewster (NF) | | Darwin Airport Darwin International Airport |

| Agenda No. | Agenda Item | Action Required (e.g. information / discussion / decision) |
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| | Meeting open | The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 9:00 am |
| 1. | Welcome, Attendance and Apologies | Chairperson, IL, opened and welcomed the members to the 11th meeting. Apologies were noted from LP and TM. Proxy’s noted as follows; - Peter O’Hagan attended as a proxy for Lisa Peters. Ian Kew has resigned as the DIA representative on the committee. The committee will seek appointment of NF as his replacement. It was noted NF is attending as a guest until he is formally appointed to the committee. John O’Dwyer, Airport Environment Officer, attended the meeting by phone to introduce himself and get an indication of stakeholder discussion. |
| 2. | Conflicts of Interest | Nil. |
| 3. | Minutes of previous meeting | The minutes of previous meeting on 12 June 2019 were circulated to the committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits. The minutes were accepted. MOVED: Karen Gibb CARRIED: Dean McAdam |

| 4. <i>Actions arising from the previous meeting 10 (12 June 2019)</i> | | | |
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| | Action Officer | Action | Status / Update |
| 4.1 | Ian Lancaster | <p>Rapid Creek Plan of Management</p> <p>Follow up on funding options to upgrade the Rapid Creek Plan of Management.</p> | <p>Complete</p> <p>Members had a broad discussion and agreed that the committee would engage with a consultant to steer the rewrite of the PoM.</p> <p>DIPL/DENR to hold discussions as to how this can be achieved, i.e. who will hold the money and undertake procurement.</p> <p>IL to discuss with Christine Long, DENR and Graeme Finch DIPL to progress the procurement.</p> <p>4/10 – Meeting held, DIPL will undertake the procurement with assistance from DENR with the tech specs. Progress updates will be provided at future meetings.</p> |
| 4.2 | Ian Lancaster | <p>Fire and Weed Management Plans</p> <p>Contact CSIRO (commonwealth land) to confirm if they have fire and weed management plans that can be circulated to member organisations.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>GF not present to provide an update.</p> <p>IL advised most organisations have provided their fire and weed management plans.</p> <p>IL to contact CSIRO.</p> |
| 4.3 | Graeme Finch | <p>Rapid Creek Maintenance Program Framework</p> <p>Update to be provided out of session.</p> | <p>Complete</p> <p>IL explained the Rapid Creek Maintenance Program Framework is owned by DIPL and presumes the document will be finalised as part of the consultancy to be let to upgrade the Rapid Creek Plan of Management allowing the two to be linked.</p> <p>Item was discussed under agenda item seven. Action will be marked complete and a new action generated as required.</p> |
| 4.4 | Ian Lancaster | <p>Detention Basin</p> <p>Graeme wasn't present at meeting 10 to provide an update.</p> <p>IL agreed to contact GF for an update on the detention basin and responses to committee concerns;</p> <p>ongoing maintenance and responsibility</p> <p>recycling water</p> <p>risk Assessment Strategy.</p> | <p>Complete</p> <p>Update provided during meeting.</p> |

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| 5. | Report on Activities within the Catchment | <p>Graeme Finch - DIPL Marrara Detention Basin - Project now complete. The basin is fully grassed, drains and embankments have been installed, and all PFAS materials are sealed within the embankment walls. Bollards have also been installed along Henry Wrigley and half of McMillians Road, and will continue down council land. The basin has been quoted in DIPLs cyclical maintenance for mowing and weed management and DIPL are now looking into future uses for the basin after having interest from sporting groups to train on the basin floor. DIPL are considering how to formalise access and installation of power and water connections.</p> <p>A camera is about to be installed to monitor how the basin fills and drains throughout the wet season. GF advised there is potential to have a small carpark on Henry Wrigley and a larger carpark in the future if required. The basin is also being monitored by the assets monitoring program.</p> <p>KG queried concerns around children having access to the basin during elevated rain periods. DIPL do not anticipate any issues and have designed the basin to exclude areas of potential high flows.</p> <p>Berrimah North - now known as "Flight Path". Flight Path Rd ends at the Secrett intersection and will enable further development. It also has a small detention basin on site to mitigate flood flows.</p> <p>Access to weir on Department of Defence land - NA advised due to new drains DoD can't access the weir from the north. GF advised DIPL are installing an access gate on Henry Wrigley. It was agreed GF and NA would discuss out of session to make arrangements for DoD to access.</p> <p>Peter O'Hagan - Rapid Creek Landcare Group PO advised RCLG are planting 80 trees at the spit site (lower catchment project) in November, and are undertaking weed sprays. RCLG have scheduled a clean-up day on the 30 October involving around 60 school children from the Clontarf Foundation. PO noted the derelict condition of the gun club's boundary fence and warning signs. It was also noted there is a large amount of gamba grass on their lease area which requires attention.</p> <p>Neal Adamson - Department of Defence NA advised DoD haven't undertaken a lot of maintenance within the Rapid Creek corridor. Bushfire Management Plan - NA queried questions raised with regards to keeping fires out of the monsoon forest. NA reiterated no burns are conducted near the creek or within the heritage management zone (exclusion zone for fire).</p> <p>Robin Knox - City of Darwin RK advised she is still trying to get the Fire and Weed Management Plan.</p> <p>Nick Fewster - Darwin International Airport (DIA) It was noted DIA are undertaking trials with growth inhibitors and insect controls using a variety of chemicals that are insecticides and herbicides. The trial is aimed at minimising maintenance and bird strikes. <i>Action: NF to provide additional information and context around the trial.</i></p> <p>Larrakia partnership project - NF advised that the idea of the project is that Larrakia Rangers undertake on-ground works for a period of 12 months and then ongoing from there. This will build the capacity of the group to work specifically in that area but also for that group to build DIAs capacity on management.</p> <p>Rapid Creek Fire - NF provided an update on the fire in the Rapid Creek Reserve at the end of August and clarified that although they occurred</p> |
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| | | <p>on the same day the fire was unrelated to the protest held for the family being deported back to Sri Lanka.</p> <p>The fire remained on the southern side of Rapid Creek and had a footprint from Henry Wrigley Drive up to Yankee Pools, and over to the firebreak along the back of the Mercure Hotel. The fuel load was predominantly leaf litter; however, the middle and lower story vegetation has been significantly impacted. DIA are monitoring and rehabilitation efforts will occur in the affected areas with a hope that natural regeneration will occur. A few Air services trucks were present but only water was used to contain fire by NT Fire Services. The fire didn't impact directly along the creek line with very little ash seen in the water.</p> <p>The person lighting the fires was caught by Police.</p> <p>The following Friday, another fire was intentionally lit. Once again it had a low fuel load and was on council land just downstream from Henry Wrigley on the southern side. It would have been easily contained but instead it ran for 4-5 hours. Most of the new seedlings are now dead. Members considered writing a letter to the appropriate department to express concerns and discuss how organisations can work better with the fire brigade to have better outcomes.</p> <p><i>Action: NF to draft letter and provide to members for comment.</i></p> <p>NF queried the sediment erosion control for the project underway on Amy Johnson Avenue. IL advised the contractor is installing all ESCP before the end of September.</p> <p>Dean McAdam – Parks and Wildlife</p> <p>DM advised there have been 18 deliberately lit fires from Lee Point through to Dripstone Park. A fire burnt from Lee Point through to the Hospital and the monsoon rainforest. Last week a fire started at the free beach. It was put out three times only to be relit again.</p> <p>Any controlled burning undertaken by parks is completed by June.</p> <p>DM noted 500kg of rubbish was removed from the hospital creek.</p> <p>Karen Gibb – CDU</p> <p>KG advised CDU undertook a pilot study on bacteria levels in Rapid Creek on vibrios, with 42 species detected. They are naturally occurring mainly in the wet season.</p> <p>KG confirmed DHAC was successful in obtaining funding towards Integrated Reporting from the Ian Potter foundation and several other organisations.</p> <p>Julia Schult – Aquatic Health Unit (DENR)</p> <p>JS advised they have conducted annual monitoring in the creek.</p> |
| 6. | Fire and Weed Management Plan and Map | <p>It was noted the following reports have been received;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOD RAAF Darwin Weed Management Plan 2016-2019. • PWCNT Casuarina Coastal Reserve Weed Action Plan 2018-19 • PWCNT Darwin Urban Parks Fire Action Plan 2018-19 • PWCNT Casuarina Coastal Reserve Burn Plan May 2019 • DIA Weed Management Plan 2018-19 season • DIA Fuel Load Assessment Report 2018 • DIA Fuel Load Map • DIA Rapid Creek Reserve Weed Management 2019 • CDU Final Weed Management Plan Casuarina Campus June 2018 • DOD RAAF Darwin Weed Map 2018 |

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| 7. | Update on the revision to the Rapid Creek Plan of Management | No further progress. IL will contact Christine Long, DENR to organise a meeting with GF to discuss funding and procurement to engage a consultant. The maintenance plan will be provided to the consultant to be listed as an addendum in the Plan of Management. This needs to be actioned before the end of financial year. KG suggested arranging a workshop to review and comment on the plan. NF asked if there was an opportunity to include integrated reporting in the plan. |
| 8. | Other Business | <p>Road and Earthworks on CDU Campus</p> <p>IL raised concerns regarding quality of earthworks on the CDU campus and the potential to cause sedimentation of Rapid Creek. Photos were tabled. All members were in agreement that IL should write a letter to the NTEPA with a CC to NTU as this was considered a serious matter.</p> <p><i>Action: IL to draft a letter and send to members for comment.</i></p> <p>Terms of Reference & Membership</p> <p>AC tabled the revised ToR saying the department would like to remind members there is a requirement to have any proxy attendance pre-approved prior to meetings to be eligible for remuneration. Any sitting fees requested after a meeting is held will not be approved.</p> <p>AC explained the paperwork for the formal appointments is currently sitting with the Minister. This will be completed prior to the next meeting. GF advised Sharon Jones will attend meetings moving forward. GF will attend as required.</p> |
| 9. | Next Meeting | It was agreed the next meeting would be held early December 2019; however, this needed to be re-assessed once workloads and Plan of Management procurement issues had been considered. The alternative is to have the next meeting in early 2020. |

Actions arising from meeting 11 September 2019)

| 10 | Action Officer | Action | Status |
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| 10.1 | Nick Fewster | Provide additional information and context to members around the trial of growth inhibitors. | Complete Nick provided detail and supporting documents to committee 26 September 19. The program is being undertaken with Brisbane airport. A business case is being prepared to look at the cost benefits. No chemical application is taking place for this expanded zone which is 100 hectares. |
| 10.2 | Ian Lancaster | Draft letter to NTEPA (with cc to CDU) regarding earthworks on CDU campus. | In Progress A letter was sent to CDU, with nil response. 28/1 - Karen confirmed CDU engaged Dr Ian Hollingworth, a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control to draft a report. Some prelim works have been completed. |
| 10.3 | Nick Fewster | Draft letter to the fire brigade and distribute to members for comment. | Complete Letter sent to Mark Spain, Chief Fire Officer, NTPFES. A copy of the letter can be found at Attachment A. Ian Lockley, District Officer, NTPFES will attend the next meeting. |
| 10. | Meeting closed | Meeting closed at 10:48 am | |