

# Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday 7 May 2021

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Chair: Ian Lancaster

Location: Northern Australia Conference Room

NADO, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 76 Esplanade, Darwin

Secretariat: Carmony Leso, Executive Officer –  
Committees (DEPWS)

Attendees: Karen Gibb  
Robin Knox  
Peter O'Hagan – *proxy*  
Dean McAdam  
Neal Adamson  
Nick Fewster

Charles Darwin University  
City of Darwin  
Rapid Creek Landcare Group  
Parks and Wildlife, DEPWS  
Department of Defence  
Darwin International Airport

Apologies: Graeme Finch  
Richard Fejo  
Lisa Peters  
Timothy Moore

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics  
Flinders University  
Rapid Creek Landcare Group  
Community Representative

No.	Item	Action (e.g. Noting / Discussion / Decision)
	Meeting opened	The Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee meeting commenced at 2:09pm
1	Welcome attendance and apologies	Chairperson, Ian Lancaster, opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the 14 <sup>th</sup> meeting. Apologies were noted from Graeme Finch, Richard Fejo, Lisa Peters and Tim Moore. Peter O'Hagan attended as a proxy for Lisa Peters.
2	Conflicts of Interest	Nil.
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the previous meeting on 10 September 2020 were circulated to the Committee members prior to the meeting for comments / edits. The minutes were accepted with no further changes.
4	Actions arising from the previous meeting (10 September 2020)	
	Action	Action Officer
	Land Rezoning Ian Lancaster will draft letters to City of Darwin (CoD) and the Northern Territory Government (NTG) requesting transfer of the land and send RCWAC members for their approval	Ian Lancaster
		Status / Update
		Ongoing Refer to item 6.

	<p><b>Gross Pollutant Traps</b> Robin was advised that there were thirteen with limited data, and agreed to follow this up with the City of Darwin</p>	<p>Robin Knox</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
	<p><b>Plan of Management</b> Jeff will draft objectives and send these to the RCWAC members</p>	<p>Jeff Richardson</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> Wants to get the consultancy finished</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Rapid Creek Plan of Management</b></p>	<p>The action item list in the Plan of Management will form the Committees future action item list which they can add to and update.</p> <p>Ian didn't receive any further feedback on the Plan. He would like to get the consultancy finished and paid for.</p> <p>If members would like areas changed or fixed up they can put forward their suggestions.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Nick noted that there is a map in the Plan that shows all the different vegetation communities but there are no points of reference as to where they are. Nick suggested putting in some road names on the map to identify their locations.</i></p> <p><i>Peter noted that there is continuous reference in the plan to Begley 2014 which is a University Assignment that Begley did. Peter doesn't think that the assignment should be used as a reference in the Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Ian advised that the Plan will remain as a standing agenda item for future meetings.</i></p> <p><b>Action: Ian to put forward suggested amendments to the Plan</b></p>	
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Letter regarding Transfer of land "wedge" from NTG to CoD</b></p>	<p>Ian reported that a letter was drafted and circulated to the Committee for feedback. The letter requests the transfer of land from NTG to the CoD as it has become isolated and it no longer being maintained. Ian will send the letter off and report back to the Committee when he receives a response.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Neal suggested that another option would be to have an MOU between the landowners to determine who is going to be responsible for the maintenance. Ian commented that it is to the advantage of the NTG Planning Division to deal with these issues as they come up otherwise you end up with legacy issues.</i></p> <p><i>Neal questioned if there was any plan to give the letter to NTG to provide access to that plot of land just south of that? Ian commented that not at this stage but he doesn't see an issue with that. Neal noted that this has been discussed multiple times over the years.</i></p> <p><i>Neal advised that NTG have put some fences in there and DoD used to access it down by the Netball Courts. NTG has done a lot of work to prevent vehicle access off Henry Wriggley to get into that portion of land where Yankee Pools is so DoD was coming into maintain it along side of the Netball Courts but the access has been blocked by a huge drain. Nick commented that in order to access that area, there is a drive way with gates with keys on them that the Larrakia Rangers have been accessing to manage the area. Neal and Nick will discuss this further out of session.</i></p>	

7 Member Reports on activities		
7.1	<b>Charles Darwin University</b>	<p>Karen advised that she has been reflecting on the priority actions for the management plan and why CDU would be on the RCWAC. She advised that there is no obvious path for getting research supported. CDU hasn't done research on Rapid Creek for a long time now and she would like to raise whether or not the Committee wants to think about student opportunities and / or undergrad opportunities for working in the Rapid Creek and what organisations would want them doing things and why.</p> <p>Karen proposed this be put down as a future agenda item for discussion.</p> <p>Karen noted that CDU has been working with Julia Schult on Environment DNA (EDNA) Assessment of the aquatic animals in Rapid Creek and other sites. Karen will report back to the RCWAC once it has been completed. It is a very easy and powerful way for Rangers and others to be collecting water.</p> <p>Karen noted that an action item for the future could be if the RCWAC comes up with a list of projects that they would like to see done by students either by desktop or field, CDU can promote it.</p> <p><i>Discussion: Ian noted that in the RCPM there is an action to investigate options for review of biodiversity within the catchment and review of vegetation communities within the catchment. Perhaps that is something someone from CDU could do.</i></p>
7.2	<b>Darwin Airport</b>	<p>Nick advised that the Fire Management Event was a success and thanked the RCWAC members for attending. There were a few main actions that came out of the event, one was about working with DoD to clean up a major fire break.</p> <p>Nick reported that DIA received a burn permit from Anthony Miles, from the Fire Service who reviewed their site. It will be a small burn at the top end of the reserve area and will happen on Tuesday with a consultant and with the Larrakai Rangers assisting.</p> <p>Nick reported that Mission Grass has been a big problem.</p>
7.3	<b>Parks and Wildlife</b>	<p>Dean reported that Parks and Wildlife have approval from the NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) to burn on their behalf. There are only 13 – 14 burns planned for Casuarina, Charles Darwin, Knuckey's Lagoon and Homes Jungle. A lot of it ties into the work that the Gamba Army have been doing. There is also 63 Hectares of area to mow or slash with only six staff.</p> <p>Parks and Wildlife are investigating a program called Adopt A Spot with outliers where people can volunteer to go and take care of the outliers.</p>
7.4	<b>City of Darwin</b>	<p>Robin reported that a Solar Farm is going up at Shoal Bay.</p> <p>Robin advised that the Bushcare contract for Rapid Creek no longer exists so she will keep pushing it through Council as it is a concern.</p> <p>Robin advised that she raised with Graeme Finch an issue with the road reserve and Mission Grass along Henry Wriggly Drive. Robin questioned whether or not the RCWAC can approach the department and ask what is being done about this.</p>

		<p><i>Discussion: Ian advised that it is probably too late to do anything this fire season. Ian advised that he thinks Graeme should be replaced on the RCWAC as the DIPL representative by Sharon Jones as she is in charge of Crownland.</i></p> <p><i>Ian noted that one of the major issues for the RCWAC is the Fire and Weed Management plans for all the major stakeholders. DIPL haven't provided one for Crownland so Ian will request for DIPL to provide an update on where their plans are up to.</i></p> <p><i>Robin noted that Ian should contact all the stakeholders who have not provided their plans requesting that they do so i.e. CoD, CDU and DIPL.</i></p> <p><i>Neal questioned if there was any response to the letter that came out about the concerns with the storm water run-off from the Berrimah Development? Ian advised that no response was provided.</i></p> <p><b>Action: Ian to contact DIPL, City of Darwin and CDU for an update on where their Weed and Fire Management Plan are up to.</b></p>
7.5	Department of Defence	<p>Neal reported that the DoD Weed Program is coming to an end. There are still doing their assurance and minor sprays. Fire program will be kicking off in a few weeks (subject to weather).</p> <p>Neal advised that there is not much development in the Rapid Creek Catchment area. The Apron works have finished.</p> <p>DoD have had an influx of Marines. They are planning on developing an area within the catchment but that is still going through the development phases.</p> <p>Neal advised that the Solar Farm has received approval to be extended further. It is currently 4mg and can go up to 10mg.</p>
7.6	Rapid Creek Landcare Group	<p>Peter reported that there are 55 formal members of the Rapid Creek Landcare Group (RCLG). Most of the Groups activity has been around the revegetation program at the mouth of Rapid Creek and their work with parks and CoD.</p> <p>Peter reported that the RCLG put in some submissions to the planning application on the land on Boulter Road that was illegally cleared in 2014. Under this development they were reconfiguring the two sites for development and using the Melaleuca Swap as the sump. The ECNT also lodged submissions in relation to this proposed development. There were two hearings held and RCLG attended both. Through the Consent Authority, and supported by documents provided by DEPWS, it was declared that there were no issues or environmental impact. The RCLG was concerned about the quantity and quality of water from this development. Peter reported that the development has been approved.</p> <p>Peter reported that the Caravan Park in Marrara are being closed and turned into a subdivision. There is no mention in their application of Stormwater, Weeds etc. Peter advised that the RCLG will be providing a submission and questioned whether the RCWAC should also provide a submission.</p> <p>Peter reported that Parks and Wildlife have agreed to pay the insurance for the RCLG which is their biggest expense.</p>
8	Other Business	Nil.
9	Next meeting	The next meeting will be held in August 2021.

	<b>Meeting closed</b>	The meeting concluded at 3:17pm
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## Actions arising from the meeting

No.	Action	Action officer	Timeframe
1	Put forward suggested amendments to the Plan	IL	Prior to the next meeting
2	Contact DIPL, City of Darwin and CDU for an update on where their Weed and Fire Management Plan are up to.	IL	Prior to the next meeting