

20 February 2018

NT Coastal and Marine Management Strategy
PO Box 496
Palmerston NT 0832

Coastal and Marine Management Discussion Paper

Darwin Port welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the development of the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy. Whilst the discussion paper highlights the importance of the strategy and its interaction with economic outcomes, very little focus on the economic aspect is evident in the discussion paper.

Part 5 of the discussion paper highlights the challenges we need to prepare for. One such challenge is listed as “poor” community engagement support and awareness. The use of the word “poor” insinuates that previous community engagement has been poor. Darwin Port proposes that processes should demand ample opportunity, and achievement of, effective community engagement.

The inclusion of scientific data as a challenge does highlight the ability to access the existing data. Darwin Port believes that Government should take a leading role to manage and make available the vast data sets that exist in relation to an array of issues relevant to managing and using the coastal environment. This should be designed to provide access for all parties and assist to streamline environmental assessment and approval processes. Shared access to scientific data might also be incorporated as one of the guiding principles.

An additional challenge that should be addressed, is that the continued operation of critical infrastructure must be recognised and accommodated. This might be titled “maintenance of infrastructure and environments critical to the NT economy and community”. This issue might also be usefully incorporated in the “Guiding Principles” section, and in the Long-Term Outcomes section (under Foster Sustainable Industry) and also address future infrastructure and understanding the balance between environmental protection and economic growth for the NT.

Darwin Port would welcome further engagement in the development of the Strategy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry O'Connor', written over a white background.

TERRY O'CONNOR
Chief Executive