

RAPID CREEK WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting 2: 14 February 2017

Time: 2pm

Location: Parks & Wildlife Conference Room, Jape Homemaker Village

Present: Ian Lancaster (Chair), Lisa Peters (RCLG), Donna Jackson (Larrakia), Darren Skuse (DIA), Neal Adamson (DoD) (left early), Emma Lewis (DCC), Nigel Weston (Parks & Wildlife), Julia Schult (DENR), Teegan Thring (DENR)

Apologies: Ian Kew (DIA), Tim Moore, Karen Gibb (CDU)

Welcome and thanks to Ian Lancaster for accepting the position of Chair.

Ian has worked in natural resource management in the Territory for over 30 years, and was formerly the Executive Director of Water Resources. He currently runs his own environmental consultancy business and has extensive experience in community engagement and water planning with demonstrated strong leadership and facilitation skills through his involvement in community water planning. Ian is a member of the Rapid Creek Landcare Group. We welcome Ian to the Committee and look forward to working together.

Previous Action Items

Action	Status
Distributed copies of Plan of Management and Terms of Reference to members.	Completed
Terms of Reference – Members raised the question as to whether the Terms of Reference can be changed to reflect specific duties. The Terms of Reference can be updated at any time at the approval of the Department's Executive Director.	Completed
Plan of Management – The Plan of Management was last updated in 1994. Committee members would like to see a broader interest in the Plan, identify priorities, and replace the word Water for Catchment and share information and recommendations. Applications for funding through Territory Natural Resource Management Board close on the 24 th February 2017.	Completed

Updates within the Catchment

Darren Skuse (DIA) – The Airport Environment Strategy, part of the Airport Master Plan will be released for public comment in March. The final will be published in June 2017. A link will be provided.

NT Airports are updating their website. There will be more information about what's going on within the Catchment.

NT Airports have received summary reports provided by CDU from the technical data provided to them.

Drainage works and retention basin – On the Government side of the Airport, NT Airports are working with Jacobs, linked with Government.

Other works include carrying out annual water quality testing, weed management, wet season burns and ensuring erosion sediment control is in place. Working with Contractors to improve the quality of the conservation area and also working to formalise external contracts currently in place.

Julia Schult (DLRM) – Macro invertebrate testing is conducted once per year in the early Dry Season.

The Darwin Harbour Report Cards have been released and are available in hard copy or on the Department's website. Rapid Creek scored 'B'.

Julia has some footage of fish within the Catchment. Will find out about putting the footage on the Department's website or Facebook page.

Department of Health have placed signage along the Catchment in regards to the consumption of food and PFAS. At this stage PFAS is primarily a health issue rather than an environmental issue. There is suspicion whether PFAS is cancer causing, however, it is not proven.

Action: Teegan confirm with Dept of Health as to how long the signage be in place for.

Action: Report on PFAS as a standard agenda item at each meeting – report on data.

Nigel Weston (Parks & Wildlife) – Three new picnic shelters have been built at the mouth of the creek, in Casuarina Coastal Reserve, just over the yellow footbridge. It features a new toilet block, BBQ's and three shelters designed by Troppo Architects. It is due to open soon. Department of Health opposed the location and type of septic tank for the toilet block. The septic system has now been installed to health requirements.

Closing off the headland beach access. Couldn't stabilise as a formal beach access. This was closed on engineer's advice. There is now a set of stairs to access the beach from the yellow footbridge.

Emma Lewis (DCC) – Currently conducting clean ups on Lakeside Drive (dumping ground). This is a staged approach. The next stage will focus on weed management. Talking with the mowing contractors to come up with the best approach for mowing in these areas.

Bollards and gates have been installed along Lakeside Drive, near the community garden to prevent vehicle access.

The Lakeside Drive Master Plan will go out for community consultation at the end of the year. Conversations about the retention basin are ongoing.

Rezoning for the parcel of land behind the Netball Courts including land adjacent to Rapid Creek on both sides from McMillans Rd and Henry Wrigley Drive. The application has been submitted to amend the planning scheme was lodged on the 22nd February for Council lots Section 5249 (currently zoned 'OR' Organised Recreation) and Section 4295 (currently zoned 'PS' Public Open Space to be rezoned to 'CN' Conservation.

Review of storm water and ensuring compliance is ongoing.

Action: Emma to follow up status for next meeting.

Committee discussion - Removal of trees opposite the ABC Childcare Centre and sediment controls. These need attention.

Foot bridge – This foot bridge is one of the busiest – Parks and Wildlife is not responsible for erosion control. The fig tree is on Casuarina Coastal Reserve land and is declared Recreation.

Fishing platform – is not Parks and Wildlife, although they do maintain it. City of Darwin and Department of Infrastructure should be responsible for the fishing platform.

Action: Further discussions required with AAPA.

Action: Promoting the hydrograph or camera for ‘real time’ data for alerting flooding within the flood zone. Teegan to discuss with the Water Assessment team for the Department.

Lisa Peters (RCLG) – The Landcare Group provided information to City of Darwin for rezoning of land. The group are currently writing a submission for the Landcare Education Initiative. Clean Up Day is the 5th of March 2017 – in collaboration with Enviro, Clontarf and the Beachfront Hotel.
Undertaking regular working bees and weed management within the Catchment.

Action: Larrakia Nation proposed regular update to meetings on the Ranger/Marine program within the Catchment.

Committee discussion – Discussion about whether EPA formed a working group for Rapid Creek. Find out whether the group been formed, whether they are publishing anything and if there is a report, is it being released. Invite them to present on it at the next meeting.

Action: Teegan contact EPA to enquire about the report and to present at the next meeting.

Catchment Plan of Management

Intention to update/refresh the existing Plan of Management with a more modern approach. Possibilities to introduce Apps for smart phones ie Flora and Fauna or a Traditional Owner Elder to talk about the Tree, maps of walking tracks/wildlife or updates on flooding etc.

Discussion around upcoming funding round with the Territory Natural Resource Management Board. Possibility of the Rapid Creek Landcare Group applying for the funding and being the driving body.

Action: Report back to Committee with an update

Other Business

Parks and Wildlife received an enquiry in regards to why there is no crocodile signage throughout the catchment. Nigel advised that there is no requirement for signage, however, signage and design files are available from Parks and Wildlife. Nigel will email the design guidelines to Teegan. Anyone is welcome to place signage on their land.

Ongoing Agenda Items

All members are invited to provide input for agenda items.

The Minister and/or local member is invited to attend any of Rapid Creek’s meetings.

Meeting concluded: 3:30pm