



MINUTES

**East Point Reserve Advisory
Committee Meeting
Thursday, 5 October 2023**

**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN
EAST POINT RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM BIDJPIDJI (MEETING ROOM 1), LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE,
HARRY CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN
ON THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2023 AT 4:30 PM**

- PRESENT:** Chairperson Councillor Mick Palmer, Birdlife NT Lou Martini, Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp, Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall, Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Anja Zimmermann, Larrakia Nation Ben Smith, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott, Researcher John Rawsthorne, Top End Native Plant Society Lon Wallis, Community Representative Serena Ragosta, Community Representative Lorraine Corowa
- OFFICERS:** Nick Fewster (Executive Manager Environment & Waste Services), Jamie Lewis (Senior Coordinator Parks and Reserves), Emma Smith (Coordinator Environment and Climate Change), Louise Flower (Executive Assistant)
- APOLOGY:** Crown Lands NTG Racheal Curtain, Friends of East Point Helen Haritos, Weeds Branch, Elizabeth Gleeson (Environment, Climate and Waste Support Officer)
- GUESTS:** Nil

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1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:31pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the traditional owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

That the apologies from Crown Lands NTG Racheal Curtain, Friends of East Point Helen Haritos, Weeds Branch and Elizabeth Gleeson (Environment, Climate and Waste Support Officer) be received and accepted.

3.1 Leave of Absence

Nil

3.2 Leave of Absence Notified

Nil

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

4.1 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTED

The following members attended the meeting electronically:

- Community Representative Serena Ragosta
- Community Representative Lorraine Corowa
- Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott
- Darwin Military Museum Norm Cramp
- Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Anja Zimmermann
- Researcher John Rawsthorne

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Lorraine Corowa declared that the views expressed at this committee are her personal views as a community representative and not the views of her senior public servant role within the Northern Territory Government.

5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Not applicable. Quorum was not met at the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held 16 February 2023.

7 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

8 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 CITY OF DARWIN OFFICER UPDATES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

Seconded: Birdlife NT Lou Martini

That a verbal update provided by Council officers, covering multiple programs and projects, be received and noted.

CARRIED 11/0

DISCUSSION

Emma Smith, Coordinator Environment and Climate Change, provided an update on the recently completed fauna survey at East Point by EcOz. It has been seven years since the last survey was completed. The survey has counted 99 vertebrate species comprising two amphibians, 77 birds, six mammals and 14 reptiles. This is ten more species compared to the last survey. These figures do not include bats as they are still reviewing this information. The Northern Brushtail Possum, listed as vulnerable under the Biodiversity Conservation Act was found at all six survey sites. The Yellow-Spotted Monitor, also listed as vulnerable, was found at two locations. However, it was noted they were all quite small in size. Introduced species detected were the Asian house gecko and cane toad. Given the report is being written up at the moment, now is the opportunity for members to provide feedback on any fauna changes noticed over the last five years within the reserve.

Lou Martini commented that they have a long record of information on shore birds. Birdlife are keen to see the results of the report, how it compares to the previous report, and how it correlates to their observations.

Lon Wallis inquired as to what season of the year this survey was completed and how it compares to the timing of the last survey. Emma Smith advised that this survey was completed in August. The previous survey was completed in May 2016 and the 2013 survey was also done in May/June. We have not completed a wet season survey which may show different results.

Kirsti Abbott enquired if the Atlas Moth was included in the fauna survey. Emma Smith advised that they did not come across the Atlas Moth during the survey. The Atlas Moth expert did not complete a light survey at the end of the wet season as they had observed that the other moths in the area

had gone into diapause so they didn't expect to see any. Given this, we have not been able to confirm if the reintroduction from last wet season has been successful or not. Nick Fewster advised that in regard to the moth experts, they do go out to the reserve when the conditions are right to look for the moths. They have not spotted them yet.

Ben Smith advised the committee that Larrakia Rangers have sat-tagged a Hawksbill Turtle in the area immediately adjacent to where the jetty is proposed to go. It has been hanging around the one area for the last few months. Last year the Rangers attended one nesting site right in the corner of the bay where the mangroves are.

Jamie Lewis spoke of a well used turtle nesting site in front of the equestrian club on the sandy beach. He has reported seeing tracks there over the last four to five years. Jamie advised he will send out a pin of the location via Google Maps to the members.

Serena Ragosta requested access to the full survey once it is complete. Emma Smith advised that the full report will be sent out once received.

Nick Fewster asked that if you've noticed any trends such as litter, weeds, or dingos, please let City of Darwin know about it. As regular users of East Point, you may notice things our consultants do not notice. Please email through any feedback you may have.

Nick Fewster notified members about the work being carried out by artist Gloaria Richards to beautify benches and tables at East Point Reserve. Five picnic tables are to be updated. They look very appealing and add colour to the area while promoting local artists.

Lorraine Corowa commented on how good the benches look. Nick advised he will pass this feedback along to the Arts Team.

9.2 EAST POINT MILITARY INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

Seconded: Birdlife NT Lou Martini

1. THAT the report entitled East Point Military Interpretive Signage be received and noted.

CARRIED 11/0

DISCUSSION

Nick Fewster presented the report to the members. The signs are degraded and no longer readable. It has been determined they will be replaced under a repairs and maintenance program after consultation with key stakeholders.

Councillor Palmer commented that a lot of the signs are rusted out. Nick advised that the footings and support will also be repaired as needed.

Gary Wall queried if there was a time schedule for this. Nick advised that this information hasn't been provided in the report but we can follow up and provide an update to members.

Lou Martini commented that there is also a shore birds sign that needs to be replaced as it has all been worn away. Also, the science trail could be better signed. It is a good initiative so it would be good to get this looked at as well.

Councillor Palmer agreed. He recommended we look at all the signage for the entire site, not just

the military signage.

Jamie Lewis advised that the operations team are looking to refresh some of the way finding signage through the monsoon walking track. He also advised he may have access to the proofs for the science trail tracks which would make refreshing these quite easy.

Lorraine Corowa has previously emailed through a request to refresh the bike speed limit and shared path signage along the pathways at East Point. Can this please be followed up? Many bike users travel at speed through here which has resulted in one lady being knocked over.

City of Darwin will look to undertake a signage audit of East Point to inform a signage replacement program at East Point.

9.3 MEETING TIME, DATES AND LOCATION

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

Seconded: Birdlife NT Lou Martini

1. THAT the report entitled Meeting Time, Dates and Location be received and noted.
2. THAT the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee adopts the following schedule for meetings in 2024:
 - a) to be held on Thursday's
 - b) to be held from 4:30 PM
 - c) to be held at the Civic Centre Bidjpidjii Room (formerly Meeting Room 1) or electronically via Teams as determined by City of Darwin
 - d) Quarterly meetings are to be held on:
 - i. 15 February 2024
 - ii. 16 May 2024
 - iii. 15 August 2024
 - iv. 14 November 2024.

CARRIED 11/0

DISCUSSION

Nick Fewster provided a report to the members for consideration on the times and dates for the upcoming meetings for 2024 as provided within the report. This schedule was adopted.

Following this, Nick Fewster led a discussion on committee membership under the Terms of Reference. There is currently a long list of members on this committee. City of Darwin will complete an internal review of attendance and reach out to those who have not attended to confirm we have the best person representing the organisation and to confirm it is still relevant for that organisation to be included on the committee. City of Darwin will also reach out to the rest of the organisations to see if they'd like to nominate a new member or if they'd like to suggest a new organisation not currently included. City of Darwin will follow up via email with members.

10 MEMBER REPORTS

10.1 STAKEHOLDER UPDATES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

Seconded: Birdlife NT Lou Martini

That the Members' verbal reports be received and noted.

CARRIED 11/0

DISCUSSION

Anja Zimmerman commented that the trees at the front of the equestrian club were burnt on fire cracker night. She has previously submitted an email on this. Is it possible to for these to be replaced. Jamie Lewis advised that he will organise for these to be replaced.

Anja also followed up on termites in trees. The club has been contacted by a City of Darwin arborist to advise that there were termites seen in some of the trees. Unfortunately, no further information was provided regarding next steps or which trees were affected. Can this also be followed up? Jamie advised he will follow this up as well.

Anja advised that other than the above, the equestrian club was doing quite well. They are currently focused on weed management and have planted approximately 400 trees since Cyclone Marcus, mainly for shade and amenity. All are within the approved species list for East Point.

Norm Cramp queried the grounds maintenance and mowing during the wet season. Historically the program seems to be ad hoc with the grass growing to quite a height. Jamie Lewis advised that City of Darwin recently changed their mowing contractor. While they are still new, we are seeing an improved service from them and we are looking forward to seeing this being upheld through the wet season. Should members have any concerns in this regard over the wet season, please make Jamie aware.

Serena Ragosta inquired if there were any updates in regard to the proposed fishing platform. Emma Smith advised that no updates have been received. She believes that AECOM have finished the environmental assessment and it has been submitted to DIPL. It has gone very quiet. Emma will ask for an update and feedback to the committee. Norm Cramp is also keen for an update.

Lorraine Corowa provided feedback on the community clean up event after Territory Day celebrations. She noted that it appeared there was not as much rubbish and damage done this year. There was a lot of community interest and support in the clean-up event and she thanked the City of Darwin for organising it. Lorraine also wanted to provide her thanks to the organisers of the community planting day. This was another great initiative, so thank you to the team for organising. If we can continue to engage people through these opportunities to serve, I think it encourages them to embrace and love East Point like we do.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

12 NEXT MEETING

15 February 2024

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 4:58.