

# Agenda

## East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting

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I hereby give notice that an East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on:

- Date:** Thursday, 12 February 2026
- Time:** 4:30 PM
- Location:** Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1)  
Level 1, Civic Centre  
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin

Simone Saunders

Chief Executive Officer



**EAST POINT RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Councillor Mick Palmer

Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott

Community Member Lorraine Corowa

Friends of East Point Helen Haritos

Community Member Ulrike Kachel

Crown Land Management Wendy Pengelly

Researcher John Rawsthorne

Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

NT Heritage Branch Samantha Wells

Larrakia Nation Victor Williams

Birdlife Top End Anne Woollard

Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc Anja Zimmermann

**OFFICERS**

Executive Manager Environment and Waste Services, Nick Fewster

**Order of Business**

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**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN**

**3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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**4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**4.1 Electronic Attendance Granted**

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**6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting - 13 November 2025

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**7.1 Moving Open Items into Confidential**

**7.2 Moving of Confidential Items into Open**

**8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS**

## 9 OFFICER REPORTS

### 9.1 OFFICER UPDATES

**Author:** Coordinator Environment and Climate Change  
**Authoriser:** Executive Manager Environment and Waste Services  
**Attachments:** Nil

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Officer Updates be received and noted.

#### PURPOSE

This report is to update East Point Advisory Committee members on relevant on-ground works, management, or matters relating to the East Point Biodiversity Management Plan.

#### KEY ISSUES

- City of Darwin recently completed a survey at East Point targeting feral and roaming cats. Only one cat was recorded. This cat was detected in bushland near to Fannie Bay residences that border the reserve.
- Whilst only a single cat was detected, it is important to note that even one roaming cat can pose a serious threat to native animals, particularly in areas that support threatened species like East Point.
- A project is underway to replace the aging Science Trail signs and update them with new content. This includes working with Larrakia to add signs on cultural aspects including bush tucker and working with Birdlife Top End with a focus on migratory shorebirds.
- An update on recovery works at East Point following Cyclone Fina is provided. The reserve remains closed in early February. Further updates on East Point Reserve opening dates will be provided as soon as possible once priority works from across the entire municipality have been completed to ensure public safety.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Roaming cat survey results**

City of Darwin recently completed a targeted camera-trap survey at East Point Reserve to detect feral and roaming cats. In accordance with recognised feral cat survey methods, 20 camera trap stations were set up throughout the reserve for eight weeks including areas close to the urban fringe, within the monsoon forest and close to buildings such as Pee Wees and the Fannie Bay Equestrian Club. Used kitty litter that contains cat urine is placed in front of the cameras to attract the cats.

Only one cat was recorded during the survey. This cat was detected in bushland near to Fannie Bay residences that border the reserve.

Whilst only a single cat was detected, it is important to note that even one roaming cat can pose a serious threat to native animals, particularly in areas that support threatened species like East Point. Also, cats can be very elusive and hard to detect particularly in suburban areas, so it cannot be assumed that every cat within the reserve was detected.

Even though the camera traps were set up targeting cats, many native animals passing by were caught on camera. At 27 native species were detected including the following threatened species:

- Northern Brushtail Possums (18 locations)
- Yellow-spotted Monitors (3 locations)
- Northern Brown Bandicoots (near threatened) (15 locations)

### **Science Trail signage update**

Many of the Science Trail signs at East Point are ageing and need replacing. A project is currently underway to replace the signs and update them with new content.

The project also includes three extra signs to be developed in consultation with Larrakia on bush tucker and important cultural aspects of East Point.

Additional signs on migratory shorebirds are also being developed in consultation with Birdlife Top End, highlighting the importance of these threatened birds and how visitors can protect them by not disturbing them. The signs will be located near the rocky reef on the western tip of East Point and the Spot On Marine Claypan.

### **Cyclone Fina recovery works at East Point**

Recovery works following Cyclone Fina are progressing steadily across the municipality despite challenging ongoing monsoonal conditions. The initial recovery works focused on the highest-risk and highest-use areas, including assessing and clearing debris from roads, walkways, parks, ovals, and open spaces.

Response and recovery operations are coordinated through a structured framework that schedules work in accordance with risk and priorities for community safety and critical infrastructure.

East Point Reserve is classified as a regional park for the purposes of the Cyclone Recovery priorities:

- Nightcliff Foreshore, Nightcliff (completed)
- Bicentennial Park, Darwin City (completed)
- Civic Park, Darwin City (completed)
- Sunset Park, Nightcliff (completed)
- Jingili Water Gardens, Jingili (completed)
- Garamanuk Park, Lyons (completed)

- William Forster Park, Muirhead (in progress)
- Yanyula Park, Anula (in progress)
- East Point Reserve, East Point (in progress).

East Point Reserve remains closed, at the time of writing, to the general public. Access to Pee Wees, the military museum and equestrian facilities is provided only.

There were a total 234 trees assessed as requiring works at East Point Reserve. As of 2 February 2026, 172 of these had been completed. The trees requiring works are located throughout the park, therefore it was not feasible to barricade sections of the park to restrict access. High and moderate risk trees are also located along shared paths. Black wattles were one of the tree species that was highly susceptible to falling during Cyclone Fina at East Point Reserve.

There is a very large volume of hanging branches requiring removal throughout the Monsoon Walking track. This is a challenging area to work given the inability to get equipment deployed to this location.

High voltage power lines also required lowering to address some of the high-risk trees within East Point Reserve.

Once the specialist arborist tree works are completed, stump removal (plucking, grinding) will occur before deploying the slashers and mowers. As with other parks, a number of mows will be required to achieve the desired presentation standards for the reserve. The continuing wet weather has resulted in challenges to the mowing schedule as some areas are simply too boggy to access.

Damaged hard infrastructure at East Point Reserve was minimal (outside the leased areas) and these repairs have been completed.

With the continued wet weather, more trees are falling on road reserves and verges, so specialist contractors need to be deployed to highest risk areas.

Once the recovery process is completed, more detailed information on East Point Reserve can be provided to the East Point Advisory Committee for awareness and to assist in future planning activities.

It is also important to remember that while some parks in the city are now open for use the ongoing wet weather continues to compromise trees, including some in previously cleared locations. Caution is advised.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

N/A

<b>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</b>	3 A Cool, Clean and Green City 3.1 By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as a clean and environmentally responsible city
<b>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>Budget/Funding:</b> N/A <b>Is Funding identified:</b> N/A
<b>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</b>	N/A
<b>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT &amp;</b>	N/A

<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	
<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>	<p>The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).</p>

**9.2 MEMBERS UPDATES**

**Author:** Coordinator Environment and Climate Change

**Authoriser:** General Manager Innovation

**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the report entitled Members Updates be received and noted.

**10 MEMBER REPORTS****11 GENERAL BUSINESS****12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

THAT the next East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting be held on Thursday, 14 May 2026, at Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1), Level 1, Civic Centre, Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin (Open Section followed by the Confidential Section).

**13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

**14 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

# Minutes

## East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, 13 November 2025

Unconfirmed

**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, 13 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 4:30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Mick Palmer  
Birdlife Top End, Anne Woollard  
Community Representative, Ulrike Kachel  
Darwin Triathlon Club, Gary Wall  
Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc., Anja Zimmermann  
Friends of East Point, Helen Haritos  
Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Kirsten Abbott  
Researcher, John Rawsthorne

**OFFICERS:**

Executive Manager Environment & Waste Services, Nick Fewster  
Coordinator Environment and Climate Change, Emma Smith  
Environment and Waste Support Officer, Libby Gleeson  
Business Support Officer, Kali Stepto

**APOLOGY:**

Community Representative, Lorraine Corowa

**NOT PRESENT:**

Crown Land Management, Wendy Pengelly  
Larrakia Nation, Victor Williams  
NT Heritage Branch, Samantha Wells

**GUESTS:**

CDU student, Amy Cook  
Professor Karen Gibb

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## 1 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.*

### APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC016/25

Moved: Researcher John Rawsthorne  
Seconded: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

THAT Councillor Mick Palmer is appointed chair for the meeting.

**CARRIED 8/0**

## 2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC017/25

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer  
Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:36 pm.

**CARRIED 8/0**

## 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### 3.1 APOLOGIES

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC018/25

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer  
Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

THAT an apology from Community Representative, Lorraine Corowa be received.

**CARRIED 8/0**

### 3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

### 3.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

## 4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

### 4.1 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE GRANTED

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC019/25

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

THAT the Committee note that pursuant to Section 95 (43) of the *Local Government Act 2019*, the following member(s) were granted permission for Electronic Meeting Attendance:

- Friends of East Point, Helen Haritos
- Researcher, John Rawsthorne
- Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Kirsten Abbott
- Community Representative, Ulrike Kachel
- Birdlife Top End, Anne Woollard
- Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc., Anja Zimmermann
- Darwin Triathlon Club, Gary Wall

**CARRIED 8/0**

### 4.2 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

## 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

### 5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC020/25

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

- Community representative 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.
- Community representative Ulrike Kachel declared that she is also on the Committee for Friends of Casuarina Coastal Reserve

**CARRIED 8/0**

### 5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

**6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC021/25**

Moved: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel  
Seconded: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

THAT the minutes of the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held on 15 May 2025 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**7 MOVING OF ITEMS****7.1 MOVING OF ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL**

Nil

**7.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN**

Nil

**7.3 MOVING CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO OPEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

Nil

**8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS**

Nil

**9 OFFICER REPORTS****9.1 CHAIR OF EAST POINT RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC022/25**

Moved: Researcher John Rawsthorne  
Seconded: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

1. THAT the report entitled Chair of East Point Reserve Advisory Committee be received and noted.
2. THAT the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee endorse Councillor Mick Palmer as the new Chair from 14 November 2025 to 30 June 2026.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**9.2 MEETINGS DATES 2025****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC023/25**

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

1. THAT the report entitled Meeting Dates 2026 be received and noted.
2. THAT the East Point Advisory Committee set the meeting schedule for 2026 as follows:
  - a) meetings to be held on Thursdays
  - b) meetings to be held from 16:30 pm to 17:30 pm
  - c) meetings to be held at the Darwin Civic Centre and electronically via Teams
  - d) meetings to be held on:
    - i. 12 February 2026
    - ii. 14 May 2026
3. THAT the East Point Advisory Committee note that the Elected Members have requested a review of the Advisory Committees and respective terms of reference.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**9.3 OFFICER UPDATES****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC024/25**

Moved: Researcher John Rawsthorne

Seconded: Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott

THAT the report entitled Officer Updates be received and noted.

**CARRIED 8/0**

**9.4 LAKE ALEXANDER MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING INVESTIGATION RESULTS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC025/25**

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

THAT the report entitled Lake Alexander Microbial Source Tracking Investigation Results be received and noted.

**CARRIED 8/0**

*Committee member Ulrike Kachel left the meeting at 5:00 pm.*

**9.5 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATES****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC026/25**

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Anja Zimmermann

THAT the report entitled Members Updates be received and noted.

**CARRIED 7/0**

**10 MEMBER REPORTS**

Nil

**11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC027/25**

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

THAT the next East Point Reserve Advisory Committee be held on 12 February 2026 at Civic Centre.

**CARRIED 7/0**

**13 CLOSURE OF MEETING****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC028/25**

Moved: Councillor Mick Palmer

Seconded: Researcher John Rawsthorne

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 5:34 pm

**CARRIED 7/0**

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2026.

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**CHAIR**