



AGENDA

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, 13 February 2025

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

Date: Thursday, 13 February 2025

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 Kim Farrar

Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott

Community Representative Lorraine Corowa

Friends of East Point Helen Haritos

Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

Birdlife Top End Amanda Lilleyman

Researcher John Rawsthorne

Larrakia Nation Victor Williams

Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

NT Heritage Branch Samantha Wells

Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Anja Zimmermann

Crown Land Management Wendy Pengelly

OFFICERS

Executive Manager Environment & Waste Services, Nick Fewster

Coordinator Environment and Climate Change, Emma Smith

Business Support Officer, Environment & Waste Services, Kali Stepto

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1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies

2.2 Leave of Absence Granted

3 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

3.1 Electronic Meeting Attendance Granted

3.2 Electronic Meeting Attendance Requested

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting - 14 November 2024

6 OFFICER REPORTS

6.1 MEETINGS DATES 2025

Author: Business Support Officer Environment and Waste Services

Authoriser: Executive Manager Environment and Waste Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report entitled Meeting Dates 2025 received and noted.
2. THAT the East Point Advisory Committee sets its meeting schedule for 2025 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 City of Darwin and electronically via Teams
 - d) meetings to be held on:
 - i. 13 February 2025
 - ii. 15 May 2025
 - iii. 17 July 2025
 - iv. 13 November 2025

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to propose the meeting schedule for 2025.

KEY ISSUES

- In accordance with the terms of reference the Committee will:
 - set its meeting schedule for the calendar year prior
 - meet at least four times per year and no more than eight times annually, between February and November
 - time and location of meetings is to be determined by the Committee.
- Due to the local government elections in 2025 and caretaker period, meetings will not be scheduled for 30 July to 1 November.

DISCUSSION

Proposed 2025 dates, times and location:

- meetings to be held on Thursdays
- meetings to be held from 16:30 pm to 17:30 pm
- meetings to be held at City of Darwin Civic Centre and electronically via Teams
- meetings to be held on:
 - i. 13 February 2025
 - ii. 15 May 2025
 - iii. 17 July 2025
 - iv. 13 November 2025

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Nil

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	6 Governance Framework 6.2 Roles and Relationships
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: Local Government Act 2019 Policy: Advisory and Other Committees No.0930.100.E.R
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Nil
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<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>

6.2 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

The purpose of this report is to update members on relevant on-ground works, management, or matters relating to the East Point Biodiversity Management Plan.

KEY ISSUES

Updates and information are provided below regarding the proposed Dudley Point Fishing Jetty, cliff erosion near the Rock Sitters Club, East Point Reserve interpretive and wayfinding signage, a threatened species habitat trial and the recent Lake Alexander closure.

DISCUSSIONDudley Point Fishing Platform

The Northern Territory Department of Logistics and Infrastructure have advised that the Northern Territory Government will not be going ahead with the Dudley Point Fishing Platform.

Cliff erosion near Rock Sitters Club

Cliff erosion at East Point near the Rock Sitters Club was investigated as part of City of Darwin's [Coastal Erosion Management Plan](#) completed in 2013. Recommendations for this location comprised trialling the placement of loose rocks in the area and redirecting stormwater away from the clifftop. These lower-cost options were implemented, with the high-cost recommendation of an offshore seawall not implemented to date due to the cost, need for external funding, and potential aesthetic and environmental impacts.

Grant funding was sought in 2024 to undertake an updated assessment of the cliff erosion and investigate further mitigation options given likely advancements in the field since 2013. This grant was unsuccessful; however, future grant opportunities are being explored.

In response to the cliff erosion that occurred during the 2023/24 monsoon season, the shared path has recently been moved further away from the cliff edge.

East Point Reserve signage

An audit of wayfinding and interpretive signage across City of Darwin's parks and green spaces has recently been completed. The audit included East Point Reserve, whereby the condition of 59 signs across the reserve were assessed, with the number of signs found in each condition class as follows:

Excellent: 17
Very Good: 18
Good: 11
Fair: 6
Poor: 1
Very Poor: 6

The fair, poor and very poor condition signs included the Science Trail signs, World War II interpretive signs, and wayfinding signs along the monsoon forest walk. The WWII interpretive signs are currently being replaced like-for-like with eight signs near the Military Museum already replaced and a further 10 signs currently with the manufacturer due to be replaced within the next six weeks. These will replace signs at various relic locations across the reserve.

The Science Trail and monsoon forest wayfinding signs are to be replaced this year as part of a project to update and improve the sign's content.

Threatened species habitat trial

City of Darwin is trialling longer grass in the area opposite the Military Museum to attract more invertebrate food resources and provide shelter for threatened species, including the Yellow-spotted Monitor and Northern Blue-tongued Skink. The trial is an action in the East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan, with the current location chosen based on species distribution and habitat suitability.

The trial will conclude at the end of the wet season to limit any fire risks. Regular surveys of the area are being undertaken for weeds or any other concerns. Signage is also in place at the trial site to educate the community.



Image: signage in place at the trial site

Friends of East Point planting

City of Darwin supported the Friends of East Point with their recent planting day at the Breezeway on 25 January 2025. Staff assisted with site preparation, provision of trees and mulch, and planting on the day. Revegetation at the Breezeway differs from the monsoon revegetation undertaken elsewhere in the reserve, focusing on woodland species in line with nearby remnant vegetation. Over 170 woodland trees were planted by around 20-30 community members that attended.

Lake Alexander closure and CDU study

Since 9 January 2025, Lake Alexander has recorded bacteria concentrations above the recreational water quality guidelines and has been closed for water activities. Sampling continues two to three times weekly to monitor concentrations and determine when the lake can reopen.

Bacteria levels in the lake are historically elevated in the monsoon season following heavy rainfall periods. The exact cause and source of bacteria into the lake is not well known. This monsoon season, City of Darwin is working with CDU to investigate the causes of high bacteria, whereby the bacterial signature of all potential sources is sampled and compared to the signature in the lake. This will help inform the need for lake closures in the future and mitigation options.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

N/A

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

6.3 EAST POINT RESERVE WEED AND MONSOON VEGETATION SURVEY RESULTS

Author: Coordinator Environment and Climate Change
Authoriser: Executive Manager Environment and Waste Services
Attachments: 1. Attachment 1 Weed Survey Report 2024
2. Attachment 2 Vegetation Report 2024
3. Attachment 3 Weed Survey Report 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled East Point Reserve weed and monsoon vegetation survey results be received and noted.

PURPOSE

This report updates members on the results of two weed surveys (covering separate areas), and a monsoon forest vegetation survey, recently undertaken in accordance with East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan requirements.

KEY ISSUES

- Weed and monsoon vegetation surveys are required every three years as per the East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan 2024-2029.
- Previous surveys were undertaken in 2014, 2017, and 2021. The surveys presented here were completed in June 2024 by ecologists from EcOz Environmental Consulting using the same methods as previous surveys to allow for long term trend analysis. The weed survey report is provided as **Attachment 1** and the vegetation survey report as **Attachment 2**.
- To date, all weed surveys were undertaken in and around the remnant and revegetated monsoon forest areas managed by City of Darwin's Urban Bushland Team (see **Figure 1** for land management map). The areas around the coast and Lake Alexander, which are managed by City of Darwin's Chan Ward City Maintenance Team were not included. In recognition of the biodiversity values of this coastal area, and the potential for weeds to spread between areas, a weed survey was also completed for this area in January 2025 (report provided as **Attachment 3**). This area will be included in all future three-yearly weed surveys undertaken under East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan requirements.
- Weed and monsoon vegetation survey results are summarised below.

DISCUSSION

Weed and monsoon vegetation surveys are required every three years as per the East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan 2024-2029.

The purpose of regular weed surveys is to identify weed occurrences that threaten the remnant and revegetated monsoon forest areas, inform prioritisation of weed control efforts, and assess the effectiveness of previous weed management activities.

The purpose of regular vegetation surveys for remnant and revegetated monsoon forest areas is to assess species composition and structure against that expected of intact monsoon forest of the region. This aims to ensure established forest areas are in good condition and recently revegetated areas are on a trajectory towards monsoon forest.

Previous surveys were undertaken in 2014, 2017, and 2021. The surveys presented here were completed in June 2024 by ecologists from EcOz Environmental Consulting using the same methods as previous surveys to allow for long term trend analysis. The weed survey report is provided as **Attachment 1** and the vegetation survey report as **Attachment 2**.

To date, all weed surveys were undertaken in and around the remnant and revegetated monsoon forest areas managed by City of Darwin's Urban Bushland Team (see **Figure 1** for land management map). The areas around the coast and Lake Alexander, which are managed by City of Darwin's Chan Ward City Maintenance Team were not included. In recognition of the biodiversity values of this coastal area, and the potential for weeds to spread between areas, a weed survey was also completed for this area in January 2025 (provided as **Attachment 3**). This area will be included in all future three-yearly weed surveys undertaken under East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan requirements.

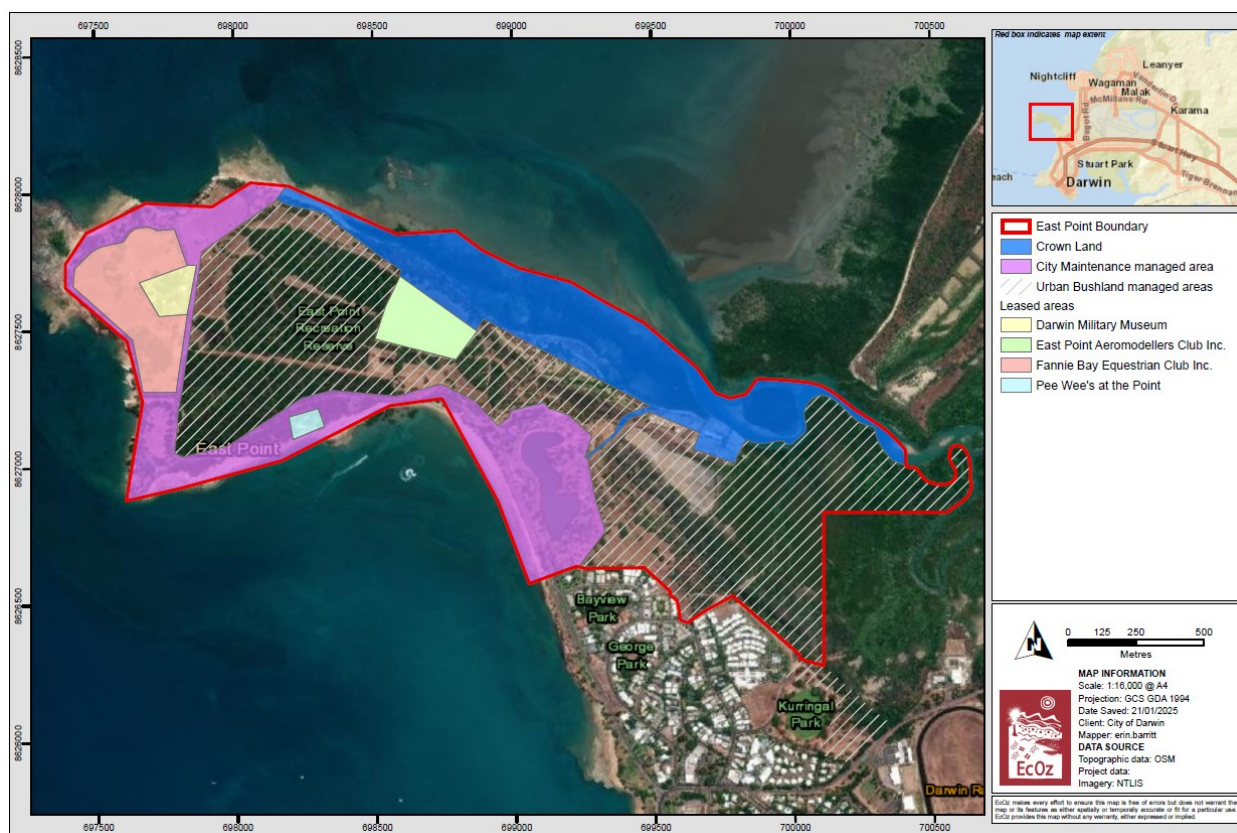


Figure 1. Map of land management areas

Results of the 2024 weed survey undertaken across the Urban Bushland-managed areas were as follows:

- One Weed of National Significance (WoNS) was recorded, Gamba Grass (*Andropogon gayanus*). Occurrences are scattered, with the largest in the Breezeway. The Urban Bushland team has been undertaking substantial Gamba control in the Breezeway, and treat all other occurrences encountered in other areas of the reserve.
- The WoNS Bellyache Bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*), and *Lantana camara* have been recorded in the Urban Bushland areas of the reserve previously, but were not observed during the 2024 survey.
- Declared weeds under the NT Weed Management Act observed during the 2024 survey comprised Hyptis (*Mesosphaerum suaveolens*), Snakeweed (*Stachytarpheta* sp.), Spiny head Sida (*Sida acuta*) and Chinese Apple (*Ziziphus mauritiana*). The number of species and occurrences of declared weeds recorded was reduced compared to previous surveys. This was except for Hyptis, which has increased in occurrence. Since the survey in June 2024, the Urban Bushland team has undertaken significant Hyptis control in the reserve and reduced infestations substantially.
- Weeds that are not declared, but are a threat to native bushland are referred to as environmental weeds. Environmental weeds with the most occurrences recorded during the 2024 survey were Coffee Bush (*Leucaena leucocephala*), Annual Mission Grass (*Cenchrus pedicellatus*), *Passiflora foetida* and Poinciana (*Delonix regia*). Coffee Bush and *Passiflora foetida* have increased in occurrence since the previous survey. These environmental weeds are treated in priority areas. Controlling Coffee Bush and other weeds at the end of Colivas Road has been a recent focus.
- Due to its aesthetic value, established Poinciana trees on the southern side of Alec Fong Lim Drive have been allowed to remain. Given Poinciana invades and poses a threat to monsoon forest, this weed is actively controlled and removed on the northern side of Alec Fong Lim Drive. This has resulted in a 60% reduction in recorded Poinciana trees and saplings on this side of the road since monitoring began in 2014.

Results of the 2024 monsoon forest vegetation survey undertaken across the Urban Bushland-managed areas were as follows:

- Remnant monsoon forest areas are dominated by monsoon forest species and in good ecological condition.
- Revegetated monsoon forest areas are dominated by monsoon forest species and generally developing towards favourable monsoon forest habitat.
- Recommendations are made for some specific areas of revegetated monsoon forest to improve habitat quality, including weed removal, fertiliser application to support monsoon forest species growth or supplementary planting where monsoon forest species are sparse, and removal of pioneer native species (*Acacia auriculiformis* and *Peltophorum pterocarpum*) where they dominate the canopy.

Results of the 2025 weed survey across City Maintenance-managed areas are summarised below, noting that this is the first survey in this area, so long term trend analysis is not possible.

- WoNS observed in this part of the reserve were Gamba Grass and *Lantana camara*.
- Eleven declared weed species were recorded, with the most common being Snakeweed, Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) Spiny Head Sida, Hyptis and Caltrop (*Tribulus* sp.).
- Twenty-one environmental weed species were recorded, with the most common being

<p>Coffee Bush, Poinciana, <i>Passiflora foetida</i>, <i>Commelina benghalensis</i>, and Annual Mission Grass.</p> <p>The City Maintenance team is currently using the results of this survey to prioritise and plan a weed control program across this area.</p> <p>Over the coming year, City of Darwin also aims to work with leaseholders and other land managers within the reserve in coordinating weed control efforts.</p>	
<p>PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION</p> <p>N/A</p>	
<p>STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT</p>	<p>3 A Cool, Clean and Green City</p> <p>3.1 By 2030, Darwin will be recognised as a clean and environmentally responsible city</p>
<p>BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>Budget/Funding: N/A</p> <p>Is Funding identified: N/A</p>
<p>LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS</p>	<p>Legislation:</p> <p>NT Weed Management Act</p> <p>Policy:</p> <p>East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan 2024-2029</p>
<p>CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p>	<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>

- 7 MEMBER REPORTS**
- 8 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**
- 9 GENERAL BUSINESS**
- 10 CLOSURE OF MEETING**



MINUTES

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, 14 November 2024

Date: Thursday, 14 November 2024

Time: 4:30 PM

**Location: Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1)
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin**

**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, 14 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 4:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor Kim Farrar
Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott
Community Representative Lorraine Corowa
Friends of East Point Helen Haritos
Community Representative Ulrike Kachel
Birdlife Top End Amanda Lilleyman
Researcher John Rawsthorne
Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall
Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Anja Zimmermann

OFFICERS

Nick Fewster (Executive Manager Environment & Waste Services)
Emma Smith (Coordinator Environment and Climate Change)
Kali Stepto (Business Support Officer)

APOLOGY:

NT Heritage Samantha Wells
Larrakia Nation Victor Williams

NOT PRESENT

Crown Lands NTG Racheal Curtain

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Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Anja Zimmermann was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC013/24

Moved: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

Seconded: Community Representative Lorraine Corowa

THAT Councillor Kim Farrar is appointed as interim chair for the meeting.

CARRIED 8/0

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.

1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC014/24

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:38 pm.

CARRIED 8/0

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC015/24

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachell

THAT the apology for Samantha Wells be received.

CARRIED 8/0

Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Anja Zimmerman joined the meeting at 4:39pm.

3 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

3.1 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE GRANTED

The following members attended the meeting electronically:

- Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott
- Community Representative Lorraine Corowa
- Friends of East Point Helen Haritos
- Birdlife Top End Amanda Lilleyman
- Researcher John Rawsthorne
- Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

4.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC016/24

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

Committee members made the following declaration:

- 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 9/0

4.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC017/24

Moved: Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

Seconded: Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott

THAT the minutes of the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held on 15 August 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9/0

6 OFFICER REPORTS

6.1 CHAIR OF EAST POINT RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC018/24

Moved: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

Seconded: Community Representative Lorraine Corowa

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 Kim Farrar as the new Chair for a two-year term from 14 November 2024 to 13 November 2026.

CARRIED 9/0

6.2 OFFICER UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC019/24

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Anja Zimmermann

THAT the report entitled Officer Updates be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/0

7 MEMBER REPORTS

7.1 MEMBERS UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC020/24

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

THAT the report entitled Members Updates be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/0

8 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC021/24

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Anja Zimmermann

THAT the following questions by Members be received and noted.

Question

Community representative Lorraine Corowa enquired about any planned works upgrades in the area near the Rock Sitters Club to address the erosion issue.

Response

The Executive Manager Environment and Waste Services Nick Fewster responded that an update can be provided at the next meeting.

Question

Researcher John Rawsthorne asked for an update on the fishing platform at Dudley Point.

Response

The Coordinator Environment and Climate Change Emma Smith responded that the new government is in the process of assessing it and that an update can be provided at the next meeting.

CARRIED 9/0**9 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC022/24**

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

THAT the meeting be concluded at 5:12 pm

CARRIED 9/0

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee held on 13 February 2025.

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CHAIR