

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, 13 November 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, Mick Palmer

Birdlife Top End, Anne Woollard

Community Representative, Lorraine Corowa

Community Representative, Ulrike Kachel

Crown Land Management, Wendy Pengelly

Darwin Triathlon Club, Gary Wall

Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc., Anja Zimmermann

Friends of East Point, Helen Haritos

Larrakia Nation, Victor Williams

Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Kirsten Abbott

NT Heritage Branch, Samantha Wells

Researcher, John Rawsthorne

Alternate Councillor, Shani Carson

OFFICERS

Executive Manager Environment & Waste Services, Nick Fewster

Coordinator Environment and Climate Change, Emma Smith

Business Support Officer, Kali Stepto

GUESTS

CDU student, Amy Cook

Professor Karen Gigg

Order of Business

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies

3.2 Leave of Absence Granted

3.3 Leave of Absence Notified

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

4.1 Electronic Attendance Granted

4.2 Electronic Attendance Requested

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting - 15 May 2025

7 MOVING OF ITEMS

7.1 Moving Open Items into Confidential

7.2 Moving of Confidential Items into Open

8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 CHAIR OF EAST POINT RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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 _____ as the new Chair from 14 November 2025 to 30 June 2026.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to for the Committee to nominate a chair for Council's endorsement.

KEY ISSUES

- Chairperson of a Council committee is appointed by the Council.
- The most recent chair of the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee was Councillor Kim Farrar who is no longer a committee member.
- The term will be up to 30 June 2026.

DISCUSSION The Local Government Act 2019, Section 98 advises the chairperson of a Council committee is appointed by the Council. The first order of business at the meeting on 13 November 2025 is to nominate to Council a chairperson for appointment.	
PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION Nil	
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	Nil
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: Local Government Act 2019
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Nil
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. 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).

9.2 MEETINGS DATES 2025

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to propose the meeting schedule for the remainder of FY25/26.

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.
- On the 30 September 2025, Council endorsed a workshop to be held as part of the November 'Forum Meeting' to review the Advisory Committees and respective terms of reference.

DISCUSSION

Proposed 2026 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. 12 February 2026
 - ii. 14 May 2026

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	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. 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).

9.3 OFFICER UPDATES

Author: Coordinator Environment and Climate Change
Authoriser: Executive Manager Environment and Waste Services
Attachments: 1. Lake Alexander Fish Species Sign

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

- New fish identification signage has been installed, and the review of the East Point Science Trail information has commenced.
- The latest revegetation site planted in May 2025 near the toilet block opposite the Military Museum is growing well, with over 2,000 plants installed.
- Cane toad surveys and removal activities have occurred, involving CDU students and City of Darwin officers.
- A wallaby survey was completed with a total of 80 wallaby sightings.
- A City of Darwin led roaming and stray cat tracking project has commenced to educate the community and inform biodiversity protection measures.

DISCUSSIONSignage updates and additions

In collaboration with NT Fisheries and the Museum and Art Gallery NT, City of Darwin has developed the attached informational sign on the fish species in Lake Alexander. This is to inform the public on the diversity of species within the lake and assist with fish identification, including species that look like sharks and upside-down Cassiopea spp. jellyfish that can bloom in the lake. The sign has been installed at two popular access points to the lake.

City of Darwin officers have commenced developing updated content for the East Point Science Trail signs. Once complete, these new signs will replace all the existing Science Trail Signs across East Point.

Revegetation update

The latest revegetation site planted in May 2025 near the toilet block opposite the Military Museum is growing well, with over 2,000 plants installed.

Track resurfacing update

Resurfacing of the final section of the Monsoon Forest track was completed in August 2025. The entire track has now been resurfaced and is in very good condition.

Cane toad management update

In line with City of Darwin's Cane Toad Management Plan for East Point Reserve, officers have continued to undertake cane toad management activities across East Point. A total 1,132 toads have now been removed from East Point since regular removals commenced in February 2024.

CDU Ecological Restoration & Conservation students joined City of Darwin staff on-site on the evening of 17 September 2025 to undertake a cane toad survey in line with the Cane Toad Management Plan to help better understand the population dynamics and inform ongoing management. The students will provide a report with their findings later this year.

Wallaby survey update

In line with City of Darwin's Biodiversity Management Plan for East Point Reserve, another wallaby survey was completed in June 2025 with a total of 80 wallabies sighted including ten joeys. This is lower than the average of 120 individuals counted during surveys since 2014, but within an acceptable range deemed sustainable for the reserve.

Roaming and stray cats

City of Darwin officers are currently undertaking a roaming and stray cat tracking project, which asks Darwin residents to report roaming and stray cats using the FeralScan app. The data will be used to inform local education and awareness initiatives to promote cat containment and good ownership. It will also be shared with the NT Government who are responsible for managing feral cats. The project covers the entire municipality; however, it supports the tracking of roaming cats in key biodiversity areas such as East Point Reserve.

Also, specific to East Point, a camera trap survey targeting cats using the reserve is currently underway. Twenty cameras have been stationed throughout the reserve and will remain in place for 8 weeks. The survey aims to determine if cats use the reserve, how often and where.

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	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. 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).

9.4 LAKE ALEXANDER MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING INVESTIGATION RESULTS

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PURPOSE

This report is to inform East Point Advisory Committee members of the results of an investigation into the source/s of bacteria periodically detected in Lake Alexander.

KEY ISSUES

- A CDU study set out to identify the source/s of bacteria into Lake Alexander using microbial source tracking techniques.
- During the 2024/25 monsoon season, samples were collected from potential sources, as well as the water and sediment in the lake itself. Samples underwent DNA extraction, sequencing and were analysed for human faecal markers.
- Human faeces were not found to be a significant source of bacteria.
- The marine water pumped into the lake was also not found to be a major source of bacteria.
- Bacteria concentrations were most strongly associated with stormwater runoff into the lake and animal faeces.
- Whilst animal faeces likely present a lower risk of harmful pathogens for humans using the lake, they still present a risk, and as such, the current water quality guidelines and triggers for lake closures will remain in place.

DISCUSSION

At the 15 May 2025 meeting, Amy Cook, an honours student at Charles Darwin University (CDU) presented her proposed investigation and methodology for identifying the source/s of bacteria periodically detected in Lake Alexander. This investigation has now concluded, with the findings outlined below.

Background

Lake Alexander is periodically closed to swimming during the wet season when bacteria concentrations (using *enterococci* as the indicator organism) are above the recreational water quality guidelines. Elevated concentrations are typically associated with heavy rainfall periods; however, the source of bacteria was not known.

The CDU study set out to identify the source/s of bacteria using microbial source tracking techniques. During the 2024/25 monsoon season, samples were collected of potential sources, as well as the water and sediment in the lake itself. Samples underwent DNA extraction, sequencing and were analysed for human faecal markers.

Results Human faeces were not found to be a significant contributor to enterococci concentrations. Human faecal markers were rarely detected (only 3 out of 100 samples) and these detections did not coincide with periods of elevated enterococci. The marine water pumped into the lake was also not found to be a major source. Bacteria concentrations were instead most strongly associated with stormwater runoff into the lake and animal faeces.	
Outcomes Useful findings for informing future management of Lake Alexander water quality and lake closures include: • Evidence did not indicate significant human faecal contribution to the lake from the nearby old septic, current sewage pump station or Power and Water's sewage pipeline. • Pumping of water into the lake from Darwin Harbour was not a significant source of bacterial contamination. • Runoff and animal faeces are likely the main source leading to elevated enterococci concentrations • Whilst animal faeces likely present a lower risk of harmful pathogens for humans using the lake, they still present a risk, and as such, the current water quality guidelines and triggers for lake closures will remain in place.	
PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION NA	
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: NA Is Funding identified: NA Existing Position No: NA Contractor: NA
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: <i>Public and Environmental Health Act 2011</i> Policy: <i>Guidance notes for recreational water quality in the Northern Territory, NT Department of Health</i>
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Our criteria and approach to informing the public of lake closures will remain the same.
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. 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).

9.5 MEMBERS UPDATES

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Members Updates be received and noted.

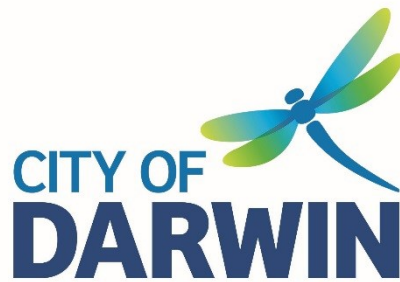
10 MEMBER REPORTS**11 GENERAL BUSINESS****12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

THAT the next East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting be held on , at (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/ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING



MINUTES

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, 15 May 2025

Date: Thursday, 15 May 2025

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, 15 MAY 2025 AT 4:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Chairperson Councillor Morgan Rickard
Community Representative Lorraine Corowa
Friends of East Point Helen Haritos
Community Representative Ulrike Kachel
Researcher John Rawsthorne
Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Anja Zimmermann proxy Jurgen Dous
NT Heritage Samantha Wells
Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall
Larrakia Nation Victor Williams proxy Kyle Hunt Lew Fatt

OFFICERS

Emma Smith (Coordinator Environment and Climate Change),
Kali Stepto (Business Support Officer)

GUESTS:

Charles Darwin University Amy Cook
Charles Darwin University Dr Mirjam Kaestli

APOLOGY:

Birdlife Top End Brittany Hayward-Brown
Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott
Chairperson Councillor Kim Farrar

NOT PRESENT :

Crown Lands Management Wendy Pengelly

Order of Business

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Community Representative Ulrike Kachel was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Jurgen Dous was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC009/25

Moved: Councillor Morgan Rickard

Seconded: Researcher John Rawsthorne

The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:33 pm.

CARRIED 7/0

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

3.1 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC010/25

Moved: Researcher John Rawsthorne

Seconded: Community Representative Lorraine Corowa

- Birdlife Top End Brittany Hayward-Brown
- Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott
- Chairperson Councillor Kim Farrar

CARRIED 7/0

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

4.1 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC011/25

Moved: Councillor Morgan Rickard

Seconded: Researcher John Rawsthorne

THAT the following member(s) attended the meeting electronically:

- Researcher John Rawsthorne
- Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall
- Community Representative Lorraine Corowa
- Friends of East Point Helen Haritos
- NT Heritage Samantha Wells

CARRIED 7/0

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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.

5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC012/25

Moved: Researcher John Rawsthorne

Seconded: Community Representative Lorraine Corowa

THAT the minutes of the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 7/0

Community Representative Ulrike Kachel joined the meeting at 4:37 pm.

Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Jurgen Dous joined the meeting at 4:37 pm.

7 OFFICER REPORTS

7.1 OFFICER UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC013/25

Moved: NT Heritage Branch Samantha Wells

Seconded: Researcher John Rawsthorne

THAT the report entitled Officer Updates be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/0

7.2 LAKE ALEXANDER MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING INVESTIGATION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC014/25

Moved: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

Seconded: Researcher John Rawsthorne

THAT the report entitled Lake Alexander microbial source tracking investigation be received and noted.

CARRIED 9/0

Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall departed the meeting at 5:08 pm.

8 MEMBER REPORTS

8.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC015/25

Moved: NT Heritage Branch Samantha Wells

Seconded: Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Jurgen Dous

THAT the report entitled Members Updates be received and noted.

Fannie Bay Equestrian Jurgen Dous updated member on the below:

- Construction of a new horse wash bay is underway, and the old one will be dismantled as soon the new one is ready.
- There is a new weed called tar vine, which is a microscopic sticky seed that spreads quickly. It is unknown where it comes from. Emma Smith will investigate.
- Last toad bust was done at the end of the wet season and they caught 60 toads. The population of goanna is growing as well as birds population, particularly bush curlews.

Community Representative Lorraine Corowa updated member on the below:

- There has been an increase in the number of barking owls, especially around sunset.
- The area of land near to the rock sitters club are slowly creeping back towards the buildings and the gun turrets, also towards the historic military area and needs some securing. Is there any grants available to fix it.
- NT Heritage Samantha Wells mentioned that there is a Military Tourism project where East Point should be part of it, but she is not sure. She will have a look at it for the next meeting. She acknowledged that the erosion aspect is extremely important.

- Councillor Morgan Rickard also acknowledged that this is an issue in the municipality and coastal erosion is an item to be considered in major project plans in City of Darwin and that looking for other forms of funding from Federal Government is a good idea.
- Community Representative Lorraine Corowa also mentioned that Snap Send Solve app is great. She used it too and noticed that the matter was solved straight away.

CARRIED 8/0

9 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Nil

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

11 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 17 July 2025

The meeting closed at 5:18 pm.