



AGENDA

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, 15 May 2025

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

Date: Thursday, 15 May 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

Alternate Councillor Morgan Rickard

OFFICERS

Executive Manager Environment & Waste Services, Nick Fewster

Coordinator Environment and Climate Change, Emma Smith

Environment, Climate and Waste Support Officer, Elizabeth Gleeson

Order Of Business

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 1 | Meeting Declared Open | 5 |
| 2 | Apologies and Leave of Absence | 5 |
| 3 | Electronic Meeting Attendance..... | 5 |
| 4 | Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff | 5 |
| 5 | Confirmation of Previous Minutes | 5 |
| 6 | Officer Reports..... | 6 |
| 6.1 | Officer Updates | 6 |
| 6.2 | Lake Alexander microbial source tracking investigation..... | 8 |
| 7 | Member Reports | 11 |
| 8 | Questions by Members | 11 |
| 9 | General Business..... | 11 |
| 10 | Closure of Meeting..... | 11 |

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

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting - 13 February 2025

6 OFFICER REPORTS

6.1 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

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

- Ongoing monsoon forest revegetation plans for 2025
- Threatened Species Habitat Trial update
- Living with Possums Community Event on 5 June

DISCUSSION

Ongoing revegetation of East Point continues, with another area to be planted in late May located behind the toilet block near the Gun Turret. Over 2,000 plants comprising a variety of local monsoon forest species will be planted. Planting will be through a Community Planting Day advertised to the public.

As reported at the February 2025 meeting, a plot of longer grass was trialled opposite the Military Museum as a way to enhance food resources for the threatened Yellow Spotted Monitor and Northern Blue-tongued Skink. The trial is an action in the East Point Reserve Biodiversity Management Plan. This plot has now been mown to prevent weed species in the plot from seeding. City of Darwin is now considering how a native grassland area could be established here, which wouldn't need to be mown to prevent weed spread.

City of Darwin will be hosting a "Living with Possums" community event at East Point Reserve on Thursday 5 June from 5-8pm. This event is a collaboration between our Gardens for Wildlife program, Territory Natural Resource Management, Darwin Wildlife Sanctuary and Darwin Possum Man. Attendees are encouraged to come along to learn all about our threatened native possums including their importance for local ecosystems, providing habitat at home, and possum-proofing your house and food gardens. There will be a possum meet & greet, info stalls, native plants to giveaway and a possum box raffle.

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> |

6.2 LAKE ALEXANDER MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING INVESTIGATION

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 be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform members of a study currently underway to identify the source/s of bacteria periodically detected in Lake Alexander.

KEY ISSUES

- Lake Alexander is periodically closed during the wet season when bacteria concentrations (using enterococci as the indicator organism) are above the recreational water quality guidelines.
- It is clear that elevated enterococci in the lake occurs during heavy rainfall periods. However, the source of enterococci, is not known.
- To address this, City of Darwin is working with Charles Darwin University, who are using microbial source tracking (MST) techniques to identify sources of enterococci for Lake Alexander.
- Samples of the lake water and sediment were collected before and throughout the 2024/2025 wet season. At times when enterococci was high in the lake, the potential sources were also sampled.
- Laboratory analysis of these samples is currently underway, with results expected by October 2025. Findings will be provided to the City of Darwin and incorporated into future lake management planning

DISCUSSION

Lake Alexander is a man-made lake located at East Point popular for swimming and other water activities. To check the lake meets recreational water quality requirements, City of Darwin officers regularly collect samples for *enterococci* analysis. *Enterococci* is a type of bacteria used to indicate faecal contamination and potential presence of disease-causing pathogens. Concentrations are compared against the guideline levels provided in the NT Department of Health's *Guidance notes for recreational water quality in the Northern Territory*.

Most of the year, the lake meets recreational water quality guidelines. Periodically during the wet season, however, *enterococci* concentrations increase, and the lake is closed to swimming when levels are above the guidelines. Testing continues at least twice weekly until concentrations return to levels acceptable for swimming and the lake is reopened. Typically, the lake is closed for a total of between 4 to 8 weeks each wet season.

It is clear that elevated enterococci in the lake occurs during heavy rainfall periods. However, the source of enterococci, is not known. Knowledge of this source would inform lake management, potentially reducing the requirement for lake closures. To address this, City of Darwin is working with Charles Darwin University, who are using microbial source tracking (MST) techniques to identify sources of enterococci for Lake Alexander. The methods and progress of this study are outlined below.

Study Design and Methodology

Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual model of the study showing potential bacterial inputs (sources) and how they may interact with environmental conditions (sinks) that promote or reduce the persistence of enterococci in the lake. The approach combines field sampling (water, sediment, and faecal material) with molecular techniques, including, DNA extractions, 16s DNA sequencing, and Human-specific qPCRs, to detect host-specific MST markers. Environmental variables (e.g., turbidity, pH, salinity, etc.) are also measured to help contextualise microbial patterns.

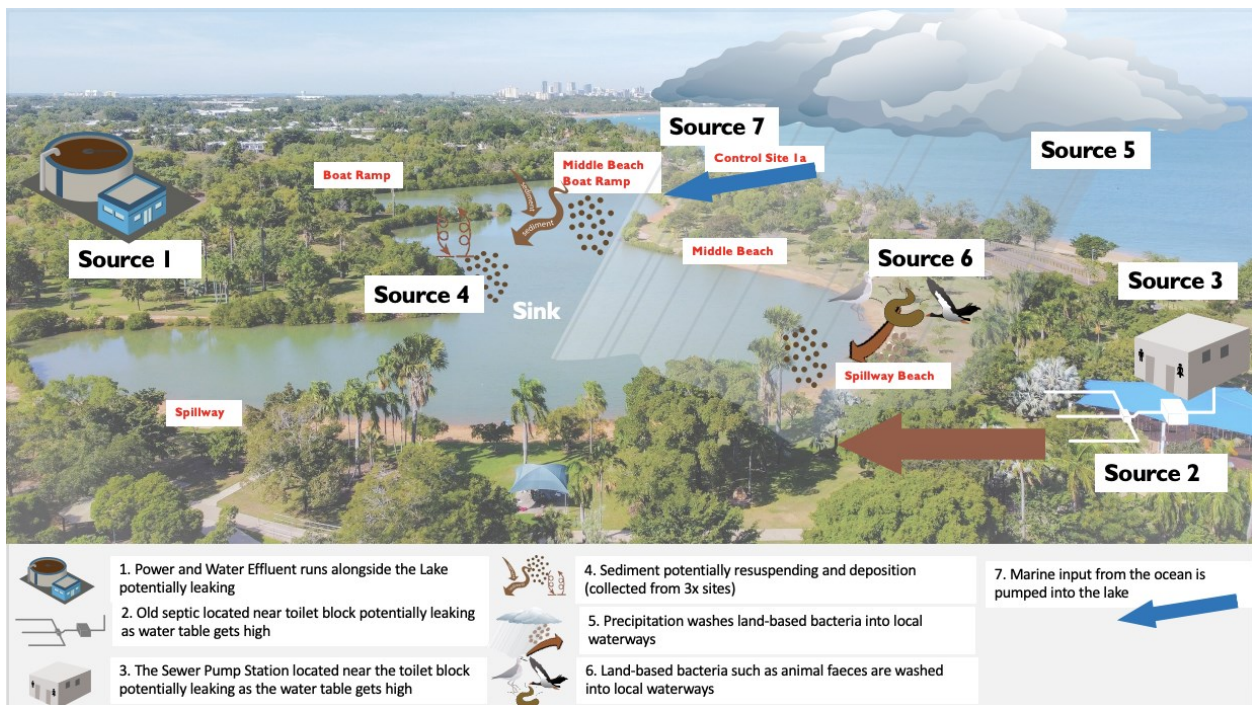


Figure 1: Lake Alexander sources and sinks

MST Analysis Explained

Once DNA sequencing is complete, a Bayesian analysis model will be applied to estimate the relative contribution of each source of enterococci to the lake (Figure 2). Temporal and spatial trends will be visualised using pie charts and comparative plots to show how contamination sources shift between sites, rainfall, tides, and contamination intensity.

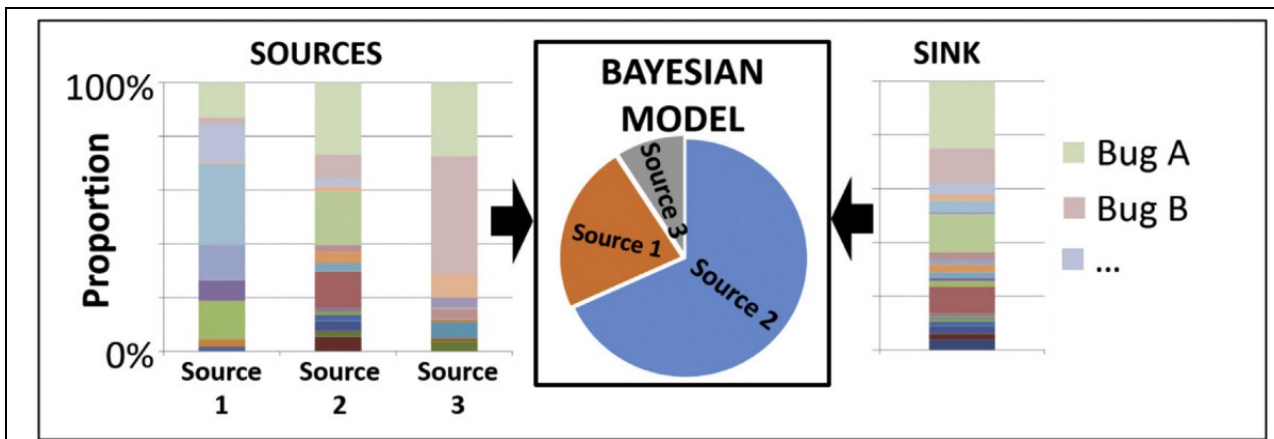


Figure 2: Relative source contribution to Bayesian Model

Current status

Samples of the lake water and sediment were collected before and throughout the 2024/2025 wet season. At times when enterococci was high in the lake, the potential sources were also sampled. Laboratory analysis of these samples is currently underway, with results expected by October 2025. Findings will be provided to the City of Darwin and incorporated into future lake management planning.

This research builds on ongoing environmental monitoring and supports City of Darwin's commitment to protecting public health and maintaining Lake Alexander as a safe and ecologically sustainable recreational resource.

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 |
| 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 | NA |
| 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). |
|--|--|

7 MEMBER REPORTS

8 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING



MINUTES

East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, 13 February 2025

Date: Thursday, 13 February 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, 13 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 4:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Chairperson Councillor Kim Farrar
Community Representative Lorraine Corowa
Friends of East Point Helen Haritos
Community Representative Ulrike Kachel
Birdlife Top End Amanda Lilleyman
Researcher John Rawsthorne
Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Anja Zimmermann
NT Heritage Samantha Wells

OFFICERS

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

APOLOGY:

Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott
Crown Lands Management Wendy Pengelly
Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

NOT PRESENT :

Larrakia Nation Victor Williams

Order of Business

1 Meeting Declared Open 4

2 Acknowledgement of Country 4

3 Apologies and Leave of Absence 4

4 Electronic Meeting Attendance 4

5 Declaration of Interest of Members and Staff 5

6 Confirmation of Previous Minutes 5

7 Officer Reports 6

 7.1 Meetings Dates 2025 6

 7.2 Officer Updates 6

 7.3 East Point Reserve Weed and Monsoon Vegetation Survey Results 6

8 Member Verbal Updates 7

 8.1 Members Verbal Updates 7

9 Questions by Members 7

10 General Business 7

11 Closure of Meeting 7

Unconfirmed

NT Heritage Samantha Wells was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

1 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 4:43 pm.

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

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC001/25

Moved: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

- Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Kirsten Abbott
- Crown Lands Management Wendy Pengelly
- Darwin Triathlon Club Gary Wall

CARRIED 7/0

4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC002/25

Moved: Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Anja Zimmermann

Seconded: Researcher John Rawsthorne

The following members attended the meeting electronically:

- Birdlife Top End Amanda Lilleyman
- Friends of East Point Helen Haritos
- Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Anja Zimmermann
- Community Representative Lorraine Corowa
- Researcher John Rawsthorne
- NT Heritage Samantha Wells

CARRIED 7/0

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC003/25**

Moved: Councillor Kim Farrar

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 7/0

5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC004/25**

Moved: Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Inc. Anja Zimmermann

Seconded: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

THAT the minutes of the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2024 be confirmed.

CARRIED 7/0

7 OFFICER REPORTS

7.1 MEETINGS DATES 2025

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC005/25

Moved: Community Representative Lorraine Corowa

Seconded: Researcher John Rawsthorne

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

CARRIED 7/0

NT Heritage Samantha Wells joined the meeting at 4:49pm.

7.2 OFFICER UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC006/25

Moved: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

Seconded: Researcher John Rawsthorne

THAT the report entitled Officer Updates be received and noted.

CARRIED 8/0

7.3 EAST POINT RESERVE WEED AND MONSOON VEGETATION SURVEY RESULTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC007/25

Moved: Community Representative Ulrike Kachel

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

THAT the report entitled East Point Reserve Weed And Monsoon Vegetation Survey Results be received and noted.

CARRIED 8/0

8 MEMBER VERBAL UPDATES

8.1 MEMBERS VERBAL UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION EPRAC008/25

Moved: Community Representative Lorraine Corowa

Seconded: Councillor Kim Farrar

THAT the report entitled Members Verbal Updates be received and noted.

Fannie Bay Equestrian Club Anja Zimmerman updated members on the below:

- Cane toad management: the club held a cane toad bust in the grounds of FBEC and the Military Museum. The number of toads caught was significantly higher than in previously reported toad busts as it is now the wet season and there is more surface water available. The toads were euthanised and given to Graeme Sawyer to count, sex and record. In total there were 102 toads caught: 58 males, 37 females and 7 subadults that could not be sexed confidently. The club is planning to conduct frequent toad busts during the wet season to help control toad numbers.
- FBEC horse wash bay update: the club scored a minor community grant intended for the construction of a new horse wash bay. This will allow the club to implement the very high priority Water Management Action. Construction of the new wash bay will commence as soon as grant money is received and the existing one will be dismantled. The drainage ditch beside it will be filled in, which will reduce the number of cane toads on FBEC grounds.
- Weed management control: recently met with Emma Smith, Coordinator Environment and Climate Change, to discuss ways the club and the City of Darwin might coordinate weed management on East Point. FBEC is actively controlling weeds as an integral part of the club's Pasture Improvement Plan, implemented 5 years ago. Most declared weeds are eliminated within the club grounds, and weeds common at East Point, such as Sida, are significantly reduced. Emma acknowledged the club's significant achievements in this area. It is, however, an ongoing 'battle' that requires constant attention and appropriate action to ensure weeds remain under control, so a coordinated approach with the City of Darwin is welcome. The club is currently in the process of writing a formal FBEC Weed Management Plan based on the NT Government's weed management handbook and guidelines.

CARRIED 8/0

9 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Nil

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

11 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 5:21 pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the East Point Reserve Advisory Committee held on 15 May 2025 .

.....
CHAIR