

Tree Re-establishment Advisory Committee (TRAC)

Terms of Reference

Purpose

On Saturday March 17th 2018 Tropical Cyclone Marcus struck Darwin and its environs with an enormous impact on trees and vegetation and the overhead power network caused through tree damage. City of Darwin's public open space and road reserve areas were hit particularly hard and clean-up work still continues.

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 27 March 2018, a report was tabled entitled 'Dangerous Trees in the Darwin Municipality' from which Council resolved in part that *'An investigation is undertaken to identify, in consultation with local experts, suitable species of trees mainly native to the top end areas with high rainfall and cyclonic conditions to be used in the future for landscaping.'*

Whilst it is the responsibility of the Council to make the final decision, the role of this Tree Re-Establishment Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations, advice and information to the Council on those specialised matters pertaining to re-establishing resilient tree species.

Scope

This is a special project (ad hoc) group that will meet for a defined period of time and deliver a series of recommendations to City of Darwin in a written report format.

The Panel is to:

- Consider available literature relating to cyclone resilient trees including, but not limited to;
 - 'An Assessment of tree damage and resilience in Darwin Parks following Tropical Cyclone Marcus March 17th 2018' – by Mike Clark
 - 'An Assessment of tree susceptibility and resilience to cyclones – A study based on Tropical Cyclone Yasi 2nd February 2011 – Dr Greg Calvert
 - City of Darwin Tree Management Plan and A Guide To Visual Tree Risk Assessment – Bill Sullivan
 - City of Darwin current preferred Tree Species Planting List
- Recommend a list of trees not to be planted by City of Darwin in any future tree establishment programs;
- Recommend a preferred tree species planting list to City of Darwin for consideration;
- Advise City of Darwin on best practice methods of tree propagation, planting and protection across the Darwin Municipality;

Authority

The Committee will make Recommendations to City of Darwin which will be made public.

Membership

There Committee will consist of:

- An Elected Member of Council;
- A representative of the Nursery and Garden Industry Northern Territory;
- A representative of the NT Chapter - Australian Institute of Landscape Architects;
- A representative of the Northern Territory Arboreal Association;
- A representative from Greening Australia;
- A City of Darwin Parks Technical Officer;
- Two City of Darwin appointed Community Members with expertise in their field of work;
- Other experts as required

The representatives of the organisations must be members or employees of the organisations they represent. Community Members shall be chosen for their expertise, experience, dedication and commitment to the purpose of the group.

The Chairperson will be appointed by City of Darwin.

Meeting arrangements

Meeting frequency will be weekly with a timeframe of 12 weeks and a quorum of 4 is required.

Agendas and Minutes will be prepared by City of Darwin appointed staff member who will attend meetings. This staff member will also undertake to provide any Council documentation the group requests.

Between meetings communication is encouraged between members.

Reporting

The Chairperson of the group will report to the General Manager Infrastructure, City of Darwin on a weekly basis after each meeting via e-mail. There will be public distribution of the business papers.

Resources and budget

The Chairperson of the group will receive sitting fees of \$719 per meeting in accordance with the C2 classification structure of Northern Territory Government bodies. The other group members shall serve without remuneration.

Council will provide secretariat functions to set and distribute Agendas and Minutes of the meetings, take minutes at meetings and provide any Council documentation the Panel requests.

The other group members shall serve without remuneration.

Deliverables

The Chairperson of the group will undertake to present a draft report to the General Manager of Infrastructure at the end of the 12 weeks period.



Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed after the first meeting and any findings will be reported by the Chairperson to the General Manager Infrastructure, City of Darwin.

