## Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Member</th>
<th>Committee Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Childs</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Thompson</td>
<td>Represents non-Indigenous Landowners and the NT Cattlemen’s Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Peake</td>
<td>Represents Non-Indigenous landowners and the NT Horticultural Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fergal O’Gara</td>
<td>Represents Non-Indigenous landowners and the NT Agricultural Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Lindsay</td>
<td>Proxy for Gary Higgins - Represents the Northern Territory Tourism Industry and the Katherine Region Tourist Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Makepeace</td>
<td>Represents Recreation/ Fishing interests and the Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the NT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Bradley</td>
<td>Represents Conservation interests and the Environment Centre of the NT</td>
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<td>Bruce Sawyer</td>
<td>Represents Government Primary Industries</td>
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<td>Ian Lancaster</td>
<td>Represents Government Water Management</td>
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<td>Eddie Webber</td>
<td>Represents Government Parks and Wildlife</td>
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<td>Julie Bennett</td>
<td>Proxy for Gerhard Visser – Represents Government Land Use Planning</td>
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<td>Phil Anning</td>
<td>Represents Government Regional Development</td>
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### Apologies

- Gary Higgins: Represents the Northern Territory Tourism Industry and the Katherine Region Tourist Association
- Gerhard Visser: Represents Government Land Use Planning
- Cherie Jackson: DRMAC A/Executive Officer
Other Attendance

The Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage, the Hon. Karl Hampton MLA and Adviser Andrew Buick, attended the meeting for Agenda Item 4 to meet with DRMAC.

Kelly Howitt from Water Resources, NRETAS attended the meeting to advise on water management issues at Agenda Item 7.1 and as an observer.

Lachlan Kelsall from Water Resources, NRETAS attended the meeting to advise on water management issues at Agenda Items 7.2 and 7.3, and as an observer.

Pru Ducey from Natural Resources Division, NRETAS, attended to take a record of the meeting.

Presentations

Des Yin Foo from Water Resources, NRETAS attended the meeting for Agenda Item 7.1a to provide a presentation on the Ooloo Model Update.

Eileen McGovern and Mike Welch from the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources attended the meeting for Agenda Item 10 to deliver a presentation on Mt Todd and mining in the Daly.

Michael Douglas, Director of Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Program (TRaCK) attended the meeting for Agenda Item 11 to deliver a presentation providing information on the TRaCK research program.

Day 1: 29 October 2009

1. Welcome

1.1 Welcome and Introduction of Members
The Chair asked those in attendance to introduce themselves and welcomed Rob Lindsay as proxy for Gary Higgins and Julie Bennett as proxy for Gerhard Visser.

1.2 Apologies
Apologies were received from Gary Higgins, Gerhard Visser and Cherie Jackson.
1.3 Induction

Ian Lancaster provided a briefing on “DRMAC – Roles and Procedures 2009-2012”, including the Committee’s role, Terms of Reference, Composition of the Committee, Obligations of Committee members, Obligations of the Chair, Obligations of government officials on the Committee, Conditions of Membership, Remuneration, Meeting Procedures and Reporting.

**ACTION**
Distribute Bibliography to members

The Chair briefed members on “DRMAC – How we operate” and outlined the key roles and tasks of the Committee.

DRMAC noted the Chair represents the Committee to the media.

**ACTION**
Copies of advice to the Minister and documents prepared by DRMAC from previous meetings to be distributed to members.

2. Previous Meeting

2.1 Meeting Record
An amendment was requested to the wording in Item 5.6.

The amended Meeting Record for Meeting 12, was accepted by DRMAC.

*Outstanding Action from Meeting 11*
The GHD report on the water use requirements and impacts of the Peanut Company of Australia’s Katherine farm still to be forwarded to DRMAC for information.

**ACTION**
Distribute Executive Summary to members, and the summary of the new report expected at the end of the year.

2.2 Action Sheet
The progress of items on the Action Sheet for Meeting 12 was noted.

3. Prepare for Meeting with the Minister

The Chair advised the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage, the Hon Karl Hampton, MLA would be arriving at approximately 11am.
4. **Meet with the Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage**

DRMAC met with the Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, the Hon Karl Hampton, MLA, and Advisor, Andrew Buick.

The Minister advised he is keen to attend as many meetings as possible to get to know DRMAC members and their issues. He would also like to meet landholders. The Chair advised the social gathering held on Day 1 of DRMAC meetings may provide this opportunity.

Concerns were raised regarding:

- Clearing applications in the interim period between the expiry of the IDCO and the commencement of the Native Vegetation Act
- The inequity between the Douglas Daly and other areas of the catchment.
- Consultation on Clearing Guidelines, WAP, Conservation Values of Daly River Catchment, Living Rivers and the Native Vegetation Act at the same time is onerous to stakeholders.
- A link between Climate Change Policy and the Native Vegetation Act

**ACTION**

Ensure DRMAC members get copies of the new guidelines when they are released and DRMAC will provide comment, out of session if necessary.

5. **Closed Discussion - member Issues**

As items discussed under this agenda item are confidential to the Committee, a record of the Closed Discussion is not included in this meeting record.

**ACTION**

Copy of “Sediment transport in the Daly”, by Eric Valentine to be circulated to members.

**ACTION**

Copy of “The Future of Recreational Fishing on the Daly River”, by AFANT to be circulated to members.

**ACTION**

Agenda Item for next meeting with ARG representatives present – Issues raised by Traditional Owners in a letter from the NLC about the impact of recreational use and management of the Daly River.

6. **Land Clearing Issue**

The Chair outlined the process for DRMAC commenting on Clearing Applications, and advised that DRMAC have provided comment on all applications.
6.1 Report on Land Clearing Applications and Approvals
DRMAC noted the report on clearing applications, non pastoral use approvals and details on areas cleared for the past 5 years

DRMAC noted the clearing approvals, appeals and applications since 29 April 2009.

**ACTION**
DRMAC requested that in future the table for NT data should have both cumulative and annual areas cleared, the area associated with infrastructure and with mining, and the area associated with a change in land use (eg pastoral to cropping).

6.2 Update on Native Vegetation Legislation
DRMAC noted the written update provided by Ian Fox.

**ACTION**
Provide DRMAC with information on the proposed Regional Native Vegetation and Management Plans

**ACTION**
Provide DRMAC with an explanation of terms, out of session, and where the Guidelines sit in relation to the Native Vegetation Legislation.

**ACTION**
Invite Ian Fox to attend the next meeting, even if the draft bill is not available.

6.3 Briefing on IDCO
DRMAC noted the briefing paper provided by Ian Fox.

**DRMAC agreed to write to the Minister** about inconsistencies and what happens on the day the IDCO is lifted.
- Reinforce that the land clearing process continue
- That the guidelines be applied
- That there be no separation of the old Moratorium area from the rest of the Daly and that includes there not being an arbitrary area that can be applied for
- Like to see a rationale for any area that triggers an EIS
- Like to see the guidelines as soon as possible

7. Water Management Issue

7.1. Oolloo Water Allocation Planning – Project Update
Given the committee changes and new members, the NRETAS Water Allocation Planner for the Oolloo Aquifer, Kelly Howitt, gave a presentation providing background information and details of work undertaken to date.
The Committee noted that Lachlan Kelsall will be taking over the Planner position for the Ooloo Plan from Kelly Howitt. The excellent work that Kelly has done to date was noted.

The Committee noted the preliminary data on water availability and annual variability of recharge and discharge.

**ACTION:**
At the next meeting scenarios of water availability and extraction will be presented for consideration. This will include a range of security and reliability levels related to the scenarios and draft rules for allocation.

**7.1a Presentation – Ooloo Model Update**
The NRETAS Senior Hydrogeologist Des Yin Foo, gave a presentation providing an update on the Ooloo Model.

**7.1b Consideration of possible allocation levels and processes**

- Draft Ooloo WAP document was provided as a template for the Committee to work with.

- Ooloo Modelling. The model includes analysis and consideration of the following.
  - Scenarios to see what effect extraction has on environmental water requirements
  - Current Development
  - Proposed future development scenario
  - 60GL Cap
  - Modelling extraction scenarios will allow us to identify when and where environmental flow requirements are not being met
  - We can link this back to rainfall and recharge conditions and triggers for when reductions in allocations will need to be made
  - We can determine how reliable various levels of allocation will be (ie how often can the volume allocated be full accessed)
  - Ultimately the acceptable reliability will determine how much can be allocated
  - May establish security categories, with varying levels of reliability

**ACTION:** Briefing paper for the next meeting on a Strategic Indigenous Reserve - background information, the process undertaken in Katherine and options for calculating and implementing an allocation for Indigenous use..

**ACTION:** A briefing paper for the next meeting on Water trading – the reasons for trading water and the rules for trading water.
Day 2: 30 October 2009

Landholder visits to inspect land clearing and discuss the application process with landholders.

Generally landholders found the application process useable and something they could complete themselves with some technical advice. They wanted more flexibility in developing final plans which incorporated on-site inspections and information.

Soil erosion on cleared land was noted, particularly on areas planted to forestry. DRMAC will monitor the adoption and effectiveness of erosion control measures.

**ACTION:** Copies of the IDCO to be sent to members.

7.2. **Water Allocation Plan, Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine**
The NRETAS Water Allocation Planner for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Lachlan Kelsall, gave a presentation on the Water Allocation Plan.

The Water Allocation Plan for the Tindall Limestone Aquifer, Katherine was declared on 19 August 2009. The release of the plan is a significant step towards sustainable management of the Tindall Limestone Aquifer and introduces:

- Allocation of 73 licences with defined level of security
- Water Trading in the Plan Area
- Standards and procedures to protect water quality
- Sustainable management of discharge from the Tindall Aquifer to the Katherine River
- Provisions for Indigenous uses and values
- Protection for groundwater dependent ecosystems, such as the Katherine Hot Springs

The final Plan and supporting material including the guide and background document is available via the publications link on the Katherine Water Advisory Committee website [http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/water/kwac](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/water/kwac). Copies of the Plan were provided to DRMAC members at the meeting.

An Implementation Strategy is currently being developed for the monitoring, investigation and compliance of the Plan. This will be an ongoing process and the information gained will be used to improve the Plan and the 5 and 10 year reviews.

**ACTION:** Distribute a copy of the licence conditions to members out of session.
7.3. **Water Extraction Licences for the Lower Daly**

Pumps and pipes cross Malak Malak land. Under the Water Act, someone who doesn’t have legal access to a water source needs written permission from the owners.

The NLC are pursuing separate Section 19 Land Use Agreements with each adjacent property owner who intends to, or is accessing and laying of infrastructure on the Malak Malak Aboriginal Land Trust.

**ACTION:**
A briefing paper to the next meeting on progress in implementing the S19 agreements.

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### 8. **Landscape Design Project**

#### 8.1 **Project Report**

DRMAC noted the project report on the Landscape Design Project.

#### 8.2 **Final Report on Regrowth**

DRMAC noted and discussed the report “Fauna assemblages in regrowth vegetation in tropical open forests of the Northern Territory, Australia”.

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### 9. **Reports / Information Papers**

#### 9.1 **Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group Update**

The Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group will be discussing membership (3 representatives) of DRMAC at their current meeting.

**ACTION**

John Childs will follow up what has come out of their meeting and advise members of DRMAC.

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#### 9.2 **Research Proposals**

No research proposals were received.

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### 10. **Presentation – Update on Mt Todd and mining in the Daly**

Eileen McGovern from the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources gave a presentation providing an update on Mt Todd and mining in the Daly.

Information provided, included:

- DRDPIFR role in mine environmental management
- key legislation
- mining in the Daly Catchment
- environmental challenges at Mt Todd
- knowledge gaps for decommissioning
ACTION
DRMAC to write to the Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources advising that Mt Todd remains a concern, and stressing the importance of making the environmental section of the Management Plan public information.

11. Presentation – Introduction to TRaCK research program
Michael Douglas, Director, Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Program (TRaCK) gave a presentation providing information on the TRaCK research program.

- TRaCK aims to provide information for government and communities so they can make informed decisions on sustainable management.
- 13 projects in the Daly
  - 2009 – 2 projects completed
  - 2010 – completion of 8 projections
  - March 2011 – completion of 3 remaining projects
  - 2012 - completion of new projects (started in 2009)
  - TRaCK2 – synthesis and adoption
- Research Forum to be held

ACTION
Presentation from TRaCK at the next meeting on final reports that have been completed.

ACTION
Discussion items for next meeting agenda:
- Daly River fish and flows summary of key findings
- Sediment and nutrient loads

ACTION
John Childs to speak with Michael Douglas about when the Research Forum is to be held.

12. Communication

12.1 Media Releases
The Chair will prepare a Media Release advising: DRMAC has started it's second phase, new members, additional members, at the stage of monitoring and working on the next stage of clearing, and getting to the serious part of the Ooloo Water Allocation Plan. This will be released just prior to the next meeting.

12.2 New Business
13. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Darwin early to mid February 2010.

Major issues are:
- Keeping in touch with land clearing issues and what is happening after the lifting of the IDCO
- Ooloo water planning
- Finalised TRaCK projects and projects relevant to water allocation.
- Subdivision applications will be circulated out of session

ACTION
Arrange for a presentation on Territory Eco-link at the next meeting