

Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program

Community Reference Group Communique



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The first Community Reference Group (CRG) meeting for the Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program (the Program) was held in Darwin on 7 November 2022.

The Hon. Eva Lawler MLA, Minister for Territory Development, welcomed members and expressed her excitement for the work that will be achieved by the CRG. Minister Lawler highlighted the importance of securing additional water supply for the Darwin region as the Darwin River Dam is not able to supply enough water for the future. This meeting is one of historical significance.

The purpose of the CRG is to provide the community with information on the Program, as well as provide any matters raised by the community back to the NT Government. The aim is to take community on the journey with the NT Government. The CRG opens a direct line for community voices to be heard.

CRG members were selected based on their expertise, experience and their ability to represent the impacted communities. Mr Darryl Day was appointed as the Chair of the CRG given he has over 40 years of experience working in the water sector, contributing to water policy, strategy and service delivery. Mr Day brings not only his expertise to the CRG, but also his enthusiasm of ensuring contemporary water policy and development is implemented in the NT.

Members present at the meeting introduced themselves:

- Mr David Ciaravolo, Chief Executive Officer, Amateur Fishing Association NT – represents recreational fishers in the NT and primary concerns are sustainability and recreational opportunities.
- Mr Paul Burke, Chief Executive Officer, NT Farmers – long term supporter of AROWS and notes that the project fits with NT Farmers' policy position for agriculture opportunities.
- Ms Anna Malgorzewicz, Chief Executive Officer, Coomalie Community Government Council – AROWS site is in council area. Ms Malgorzewicz highlighted the need for more community education on the Program.
- Mr Gary Higgins, community member – special interest as previous Member for Daly and member of the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission. Noted the importance of getting the correct message out to community – the Program is beneficial to everyone.
- Mr Stephen Hoyne, Chief Executive Officer, Litchfield Council – Council are undergoing an intense development phase with residential, agricultural and industrial projects. The Program is a part of growing the NT in these spaces.



Attendees at the first meeting of the CRG: L-R Skefos Tsoukalis - Infrastructure NT, Darcy Brooke - Project Director, Dheran Young MLA, Joe Martin-Jard, Trevor Durling - Senior Headworks Engineer Power and Water Corporation, Evan Tyrrell - Senior Director, Darryl Day - Chair, The Hon Eva Lawler, Minister for Territory Development, David Ciaravolo, Paul Burke, Anna Malgorzewicz, Gary Higgins and Stephen Hoyne.



- Mr Dheran Young MLA, Member for Daly – AROWS site is within the Daly electorate. Mr Young and his team are out speaking to progress association groups, councils and constituents regarding AROWS. His aim is to bring in community feedback, but also to get the right message out.
- Mr Joe Martin-Jard, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Land Council – noted the importance of drinking water for the community and expressed the need to get good culturally appropriate communications material produced to support engagement with communities.

Members who were apologies for the meeting:

- Mr Greg Ireland, Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce NT
- Ms Karen May, Chief Executive Officer, Territory Natural Resource Management
- Ms Kezia Purick MLA, Member for Goyder
- Ms Ruth Palmer, Public Officer, Lake Bennett Community Association Inc.

PROGRAM BRIEFING

Members were provided with a briefing on the Program by Evan Tyrrell, Senior Director Facilitated Projects and Infrastructure, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, and Trevor Durling, Senior Headworks Planning Engineer, Power and Water Corporation. The presentation highlighted the importance of establishing additional water supply sources in the Darwin region, why the Program was selected, and the progress the NT Government is making. There was an outline on the engagement journey and its important focus as the project transitions from feasibility to planning and approvals. A copy of the presentation provided to CRG members can be found [here](#).

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A copy of the CRG Terms of Reference can be found online [here](#).

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

The CRG meeting schedule for 2023 was confirmed by members, with the first meeting of 2023 planned to be held in the Coomalie area. Members want to hold more of the CRG meetings within the community areas.

The meeting schedule for 2023 is as follows:

- March
- June
- November

CONTACT DETAILS

Community members are encouraged to contact their CRG representative to voice matters related to the Program.

Alternatively, community members can contact the NT Government Project Team by email on WaterInfrastructure.DITT@nt.gov.au.



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