

Stakeholder Consultation

This chapter sets out the stakeholder consultation process during the development of the DEIS and exhibition.

24.1 Stakeholder Consultation Strategy

Stakeholder and community consultation forms an important part of the EIS process. It aims to gain input into the DEIS both prior to the development of the draft document and during exhibition (i.e. the public comment period). The NT Government, under direction of DLP, developed a Community Consultation and Communications Strategy to ensure that community stakeholders are informed about the EAW expansion environmental assessment process from inception through to final public exhibition.

The objectives of the consultation strategy for the EAW EIS are to:

- Gain insight into the concerns each organisation may have in regards to the proposed EAW expansion
- Understand the issues each organisation felt should be addressed by the DEIS
- Inform the stakeholders of the planning process.

The consultation process for the EAW expansion project EIS is based on the approach:

- The purpose and expectations of the consultation exercise and anticipated outcomes should be clear and understood by all participants
- Participants should be aware of what they can and cannot influence
- Consultation mechanisms should maximise people's ability to participate
- Community and stakeholder consultation activities are as inclusive as possible, in order to ensure they are not subject to manipulation or domination by particular interests
- Information should be provided at key project milestones to adequately inform participants' inputs
- Adequate time, staff support and funds should be made available to support the participation process
- The early identification of any concerns and issues with the project and to work closely with stakeholders to develop measures to address them
- Participants must be aware of how their inputs will be used and then how they receive feedback on the outcomes
- Thorough and transparent review of the consultation process should occur at critical points throughout the engagement and at its conclusion.

This Section describes elements of the Community Consultation and Communications Strategy (Elton, 2010) which has guided the initial engagement and communication with community stakeholders.

24.2 Identification of Key Stakeholders

Key stakeholders were identified by Elton Consulting and the DLP and are listed in Table 26-1.

24 Stakeholder Consultation

Table 24-1 Key Stakeholders

Stakeholders	
Federal Member: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member for Solomon, Hon Natasha Griggs Member for Lingiari, Hon Warren Snowdon 	Local Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darwin City Council Palmerston City Council
Federal Senators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senator Trish Crossin Senator Hon Nigel Scullion 	Other Organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Tourism NT DHAC INPEX ConocoPhillips Ports Authority User Group Northern Land Council Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation Larrakia Development Corporation Charles Darwin University –Vocational Education and Training (VET) NT Environmental Defenders Office Environment Centre NT Cool Mob Amateur Fisherman's Association of the Northern Territory (AFANT) Australian National Sport Fishing Association (NT Branch) Northern Territory Seafood Council
Territory Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member for Fong Lim, David Tollner MLA 	
Key Territory Ministers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Minister - Paul Henderson MLA Minister for Lands and Planning & Minister for Transport - Hon Gerald McCarthy MLA Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage & Minister for Parks and Wildlife - Hon Karl Rio Hampton MLA Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources - Hon Konstantine Vatskalis MLA Minister for Business and Employment - Hon (Rob) Daniel Knight MLA 	
Federal and state agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence DPC DLP Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sports DCI DCM Land Development Corporation Department of Education and Training 	Residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community of Darwin Community of Palmerston

24.3 Consultation Program

The consultation program for the DEIS consisted of a number of activities, providing a range of entry points for stakeholders to obtain information and provide feedback. The program was designed to keep agencies and members of the community informed of the latest project developments, providing opportunities for input where possible (Elton, 2010) and consisted of two phases:

Phase 1: Consultation during preparation of the DEIS. This phase of the project consists primarily of meetings with key stakeholders to provide input into the DEIS. Section 24.5 provides a summary of the feedback that was received as part of the Phase 1 consultation.

Phase 2: Consultation following public exhibition of the DEIS. This phase of the project includes website feedback, community information sessions and submissions to the DEIS. Feedback from

24 Stakeholder Consultation

Phase 2 as well as the initial issues and concerns identified in Phase 1 of the consultation will be collated in a final report for the project.

Table 24-2 Planned Consultation and Targeted Stakeholders

Phase	Consultation activity	Stakeholder(s)
Phase 1	Attendance at Project Control Group Meeting to gain an understanding of all issues and integrate comments	Project Control Group ⁴
Phase 1	One-on-One Stakeholder Meetings and Group Briefings to gain an understanding of stakeholder concerns and suggestions to populate the approach to the Draft EIS	Key stakeholders
Phase 1 and 2	Project website to provide quality, accessible project information and feedback opportunities	Community and all stakeholders
Phase 1 and 2	Preparation and release of communication materials including newsletters and media releases	Community, media and stakeholders
Phase 2	Community Information and Feedback Session (CIFS) an informal 'drop in' session for interested parties, including the broad community, to find out information on the redevelopment and ask questions of the project team	Entire community

24.4 Phase 1 Consultation Feedback

This section summarises the information gained from recent consultation with a range of community stakeholder groups, including commercial, recreational and government parties. The consultation took place over the period from 23 February 2011 through 11 March 2011. Discussion with stakeholder groups provided an opportunity for groups to express their considerations and concerns about the DEIS process and the potential environmental, social and economic issues to be addressed.

It is important to note that the feedback contained in this chapter:

- Cannot be construed as being statistically representative of opinion within the stakeholder groups.
- Represents general comments made by key stakeholder groups, which were not in response to specific plans for the wharf expansion but rather reflect their concerns about what needs to be addressed in the DEIS.

Feedback collected during Phase 1 stakeholder consultation meetings is outlined in Table 23-2.

⁴ A project control group (PCG) was established to guide the development of the DEIS. The Project Control Group comprises the NT Departments of Lands and Planning; the Chief Minister; Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sports Darwin; and Darwin Port Corporation (DPC).

24 Stakeholder Consultation

Table 24-3 Stakeholder Issues and Concerns

Category	Issue	Reference within the DEIS
Pollution and stormwater discharge into harbour including concern with existing facilities	<p>Stakeholders identified a number of concerns regarding the existing and future potential stormwater and waste discharges into the harbour. Specific issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability of existing and future facilities to manage spills and airborne discharges with a recommendation to address repair and maintenance facilities • Ensuring appropriate best practice management of stormwater and waste water • Incorporating appropriate emergency response systems • Scope of sediment testing • Licensing of loaders under environment planning control laws 	<p>The majority of issues are dealt with in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Terrestrial Water • Chapter 22: Waste and hazardous materials management <p>Appropriate stormwater and waste management controls will also be detailed in the EAW Environmental Management Plan . This includes water sensitive urban design of the proposed EAW expansion infrastructure.</p>
Cumulative impact of developments	A number of stakeholders expressed a desire to see planning for Darwin Harbour be undertaken on a more strategic level.	While consideration of a strategic assessment process falls outside of the current scope for the DEIS, consideration of cumulative impacts and the impact of adjacent developments, is part of the requirements under the NOI and has been addressed in the DEIS.
Dredging and fill material	<p>Dredging was considered an important issue for a number of stakeholders with a desire to see the NT Government establish a dredging policy for consistent application of guidelines. Other key considerations raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of dredging impacts to take into consideration multiple dredging projects from various developments happening at the same time • Concern that dredging will affect the depth of other berths and harbour areas • Potential for any useable dredged material to be recycled • Ensuring the appropriate quality and storage of any fill material. 	<p>A DMP will be prepared as part of the project documentation that will address these issues (A draft DMP is provided in Appendix B). Dredging and fill material will also be addressed in the EAW Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>Additional information on the storage and use of materials is detailed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 22: Waste and hazardous materials management
Mangroves	<p>Protection of mangroves and concerns with potential clearing requirements for the EAW expansion was a major topic of concern for stakeholders. Key issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of mangroves prior to any clearance including in respect to their ecological function for the harbour (breeding ground for many commercial fish species, water filtering) and greenhouse gas emissions associated with removal • Consideration for replacement of any mangroves that need to be cleared as part of the development 	<p>The potential impact of the development on mangroves are largely described in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15: Marine Ecology • Chapter 16: Terrestrial Ecology

24 Stakeholder Consultation

Category	Issue	Reference within the DEIS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to utilise construction methodology and design elements that would reduce the need for mangrove clearing Impact on adjacent mangroves of sedimentation loads due to EAW expansion construction 	
Traffic management and access	<p>Concerns raised by stakeholders in respect to marine traffic management and access included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for accidents and additional marine pests due to increased commercial traffic Management of traffic and traffic impacts during construction phases Access to adjacent creeks and port facilities for both commercial and recreational vessels. Potential for commercial industry to have access to facilities for maintenance 	<p>These issues are addressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5: Infrastructure and transport Chapter 13: Marine Noise Chapter 17: Visual Amenity Chapter 23: Social Environment <p>The EAW Environmental Management Plan will also address guidelines for emergency and pest management. Notice to Mariners will also be issued by DPC as appropriate.</p>
Protection of marine life	<p>A number of stakeholders were concerned about the level of protection provided for and knowledge about marine fauna and flora existing in Darwin Harbour. In respect to the EIA process key issues raised by stakeholders included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of turtles, dolphins, and other marine life for the eco-tourism industry Controls to safeguard marine life from the impacts of construction Water quality and the effects on marine life commonly gathered and eaten by Aboriginal people, particularly in the mudflats and mangroves. 	<p>The majority of issues are dealt with in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 15: Marine Ecology Chapter 18: Historic and Cultural Heritage Values Chapter 20: Economics
Areas of significance to Larrakia People	<p>Consultation with major Aboriginal stakeholders raised the following issues in respect to the EAW expansion and environmental assessment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of South Shell Island, Catalina Island and other identified Larrakia sites. These are both seen as important cultural heritage sites by the Larrakia people. Ensuring authorisation by the AAPA and the NT Heritage Conservation Act. Assurance that existing access rights to Darwin Harbour will be maintained following the Wharf expansion. Consultation with Larrakia rangers and incorporation of Larrakia traditional knowledge to be considered as part of the DEIS process. 	<p>Aboriginal heritage is in general addressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 18: Historic and Cultural Heritage Values
Employment issues	<p>Among issues raised by stakeholders were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larrakia stakeholders were interested in the potential to maximise indigenous employment 	<p>Employment and economic issues are discussed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 23: Social Environment

24 Stakeholder Consultation

Category	Issue	Reference within the DEIS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about the impact of construction jobs on the commercial fishing and tourism industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 20: Economics
Hydrodynamics and impacts on adjacent water bodies and shoreline	<p>An issue raised by stakeholders was the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of construction and reclamation works on harbour dynamics particularly tidal and creek flows. 	<p>The potential impact of the development on hydrodynamic flows are largely described in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8: Oceanic processes and natural features
Climate change	<p>A number of stakeholders identified that impacts on greenhouse emissions and climate change was of concern, issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing climate change in the DEIS as EAW is a major piece of coastal infrastructure Ensuring consistency in the way climate change is addressed including reference to the NT Government climate change policy Consideration of the potential to offset greenhouse gas emissions associated with construction and to set a leadership example. 	<p>Climate change and greenhouse gas emission reduction issues are addressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 12: Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Physical impacts	<p>A concern for tourism and other recreation and marine-based operators were the potential visual, noise and other physical impacts of construction and development</p>	<p>These are largely addressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 11: Air Quality Chapter 13: Marine Noise Chapter 14: Terrestrial Noise Chapter 17: Visual Amenity
Impacts on natural values of adjacent land	<p>Consideration of potential impacts on Charles Darwin National Park as the only major protected area on the harbour was raised as a concern.</p>	<p>The potential impact of the development on natural systems is addressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 16: Terrestrial Ecology
Increased infrastructure demands	<p>Pressure on existing infrastructure was also raised as a concern by stakeholders with particular concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding increased demands on adjacent infrastructure, such as utilities, roads, and rail. Ability of Darwin Harbour to cope with additional shipping traffic. 	<p>The potential impact of expansion on infrastructure is addressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5: Infrastructure and transport
Other issues	<p>Other issues brought up by stakeholders included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of the scale and staging of the project Adherence to Darwin Harbour Strategy. 	<p>Generally these issues are addressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2: Description of the Proposal

24 Stakeholder Consultation

At stakeholder meetings a number of questions were also raised about the DEIS process and scope. Table 23-3 outlines the questions collated and the responses provided by the project team.

Table 24-4 Stakeholder Consultation

Category	Question	Reference within DEIS
Approvals process	The Notice of Intent (NOI) mentions 6 impacts but the website only mentions 4, is the DEIS still addressing the Land Development Corporation subdivisional works and the disposal of dredging material?	As per Chapter 2, Description of the Proposal this identifies that the Land Development Corporation subdivisional works are not considered within the scope of this DEIS. Disposal of dredging material is being undertaken in accordance with existing controls and a draft DMP, a draft of which is included in Appendix B..
	In the NOI a channel deepening proposal was going to be issued under a separate NOI, is it possible that this will be dealt with in isolation, why is it not included in this DEIS?	As per the project description (Chapter 2) the proponent propose to dredging small channels leading to the Marine Supply Base, hardstand and tug berths. Other than the aforementioned, this DEIS scope does not include further channel deepening and any further deepening will need to be addressed under a separate approval.
	When will the DEIS be completed and be on public exhibition? Will the DEIS be available in hard copy as well as digital?	It is anticipated that the DEIS will be completed and issued mid April to the Minister. The public exhibition will follow shortly after that time. The DEIS will be provided in digital format but can be supplied in hard copy if specifically requested.

24 Stakeholder Consultation

Category	Question	Reference within DEIS
Construction works	Has work on the barge ramp and handstand already begun, if so, what approvals are they operating under and what environmental monitoring is happening at the moment?	There is no works being undertaken at the “Barge Ramp” location. DPC is undertaking works to stabilise the filled area constructed under the approved EIS of 1993. Material is being placed to increase the consolidation and settlement before the area can be used.
Dredging	<p>What tonnage of dredging is expected? 1.1 cubic metres</p> <p>How will dredging be managed?</p> <p>Will South Shell Island be removed as part of the dredging for this project?</p> <p>Will there be blasting as part of the dredging? No – refer to project description</p> <p>Will there be rock removal as part of the dredging?</p> <p>What will be done with the dredged spoil; where will it go?</p> <p>How will acidic and toxic dredged material be treated? Who will take it? How contaminated is it?</p> <p>How will the dredging activities affect the mangroves?</p>	<p>Dredging tonnage is anticipated to be in the order of 1.1 Mm³.</p> <p>At this stage it is anticipated that dredging material will be disposed at the same site as that used by INPEX outside of the harbour. A draft DMP is provided at Appendix B.</p> <p>As per the project description (Chapter 2) there is no intent to remove South Shell Island</p> <p>As per the project description (Chapter 2) blasting is not part of the anticipated construction works</p> <p>The draft DMP will identify guidelines for all materials to be removed, stored and transported as part of construction works</p> <p>Refer: Draft DMP (Appendix B) and Chapter 22: Waste and hazardous material management</p> <p>Potential impacts of construction on mangroves has been assessed as part of the DEIS please refer to Chapters 15 and 16 (Marine and Terrestrial Ecology)</p>

24 Stakeholder Consultation

Category	Question	Reference within DEIS
Larakia heritage and sacred sites	<p>How will the Larrakia people be advised and informed?</p> <p>What is intended to be done to ensure that sacred sites are protected?</p> <p>What will be done regarding access to the area for Larrakia, both during construction and after development? Will the Larrakia be precluded from hunting and gathering in that area?</p>	<p>Meetings have been held with key Larrakia organisations as part of the DEIS consultation process. Information will also be directly provided in respect to the public exhibition and the project team would welcome a submission to the DEIS.</p> <p>An Aboriginal heritage assessment is being undertaken as part of the DEIS and in accordance with the <i>Heritage Conservation Act 1991</i>. Please refer to Chapter 18: Historic and Cultural Heritage Values. An AAPA Certificate is attached as Appendix R.</p> <p>Darwin Port is a licensed commercial facility with restricted access according to the DPA regulations. Existing rights for the Larrakia people will not be altered by the expansion.</p>
Opportunities for Larrakia people	What opportunities will be given for Larrakia individuals and businesses in terms of access for work and labour?	Employment opportunities for Larrakia people and businesses will be provided in line with the NT Government Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy 2010-2012.

24 Stakeholder Consultation

Category	Question	Reference within DEIS
Darwin Harbour/ EAW access	<p>Will there be any potential for commercial or recreational access at the wharf? Either for continual access or as an alternative facility?</p> <p>How will access to the harbour and adjacent creeks be managed during and after construction?</p> <p>How much transparency will there be in terms of plans for the local creeks in terms of recreational harbour users?</p>	<p>Darwin Port is a licensed commercial facility with restricted access for commercial operators in accordance with the DPA regulations. Recreational boats are not permitted to use this facility but have access to the East Arm boat ramp.</p> <p>A construction and port management plan will be prepared.</p> <p>Access to local creeks is not within the terms of reference of the EAW environmental assessment. Any use of Darwin Harbour water comes under the jurisdiction of the NT Government and Darwin Ports Authority.</p>

24 Stakeholder Consultation

24.5 Consultation during Exhibition of this DEIS

The DEIS for the proposed EAW Expansion project will be open for public review and available at the following locations:

- DEWHA Library, John Gorton Building, Parkes, Canberra.
- Casuarina Public Library (e-mail citylibrary@darwin.nt.gov.au, Ph: 89300230);
- Darwin City Council Library;
- Development Assessment Services (Department of Planning and Infrastructure), Information Desk, Ground Floor, Cavenagh House, Cnr Cavenagh and Knuckey Streets, Darwin;
- EHA Division (NRETAS), 2nd Floor, Darwin Plaza, 41 Smith Street Mall, Darwin;
- Environment Hub, Rapid Creek (Shop 9 Rapid Creek Business Village, Pearce place, Millner);
- Minerals and Energy Information Centre, Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, 3rd Floor, Paspalis Centrepoint, 48 Smith Street Mall, Darwin;
- Northern Land Council, 45 Mitchell St, Darwin;
- Northern Territory Library (NTL), Parliament House, Darwin;
- Palmerston City Library, Goyder Square, Palmerston (Contact tree.malyan@palmerston.nt.gov.au or phone 8935 9993);
- The Environment Centre NT, Unit 3, 98 Woods St, Darwin;

A copy of DEIS will also be available for download from the EAW Expansion EIS website: www.eastarmwharf-eis.com.au.

24 Stakeholder Consultation

References

Elton, 2010, *East Arm Wharf Environmental Impact Statement: Community Consultation and Communications Strategy*, prepared for DLP, unpublished.