

Submission Form for Comments and Feedback

NT EPA Draft Stormwater Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Region

Submissions close: *Friday 20 June 2014, 5pm*

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Your comments will be publicly available.

Mark the box here if you do not want your comments to be made publicly available.

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Management Action	Section	Comment
Remedy Inadequacies in the Regulatory Framework	4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any widening of regulation to encompass more potentially polluting industries should be made with reference to the risk and severity of a potential incident impacting the harbor and with consideration to the additional red-tape burden which may be placed on Territory businesses. Additional regulation will confer a resource and financial burden on authorities in regards to policing and enforcement.
Engage with the Community, Industry, Local Authorities and Government Agencies in Improving Stormwater Quality	4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education along with enforcement is definitely needed. Ecological awareness is growing, so the community and business should be receptive to an information campaign and behave more responsibly, particularly with regard to illicit dumping and pollutants leaching into the soil. In the same manner that the Alice Springs Airport informs users that it is powered by solar energy, there is opportunity for Darwin harbour to describe actions being taken to reduce pollution and improve water quality.

Please complete the form and send it via one of the following by no later than *Friday 20 June 2014, 5pm*:

Email: NTEPA.Consult@nt.gov.au

Post: NT EPA, GPO Box 3675, Darwin NT, 0801

Privacy: Your personal information will be used for the purpose of collecting and collating comments received on the NT EPA draft guidelines. The NT EPA is subject to the *Information Act* and its Regulations. Information will not be disclosed to a third party, unless required by law or otherwise stated.

Management Action	Section	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and business information should be made available online and disseminated through social media, as well as print.
Improve Capacity to Monitor Stormwater and Respond to Pollution Events	4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are NT IT suppliers who have existing products which would allow real-time monitoring of stormwater and pollutants in Darwin harbour. This may be preferable to developing a new database.

General comments
1. Development of this draft strategy is timely considering the forecast population expansion of Darwin.
2. The fact that it is a working harbour with a rich maritime history, where diverse craft including pearling vessels and the Queen Mary 2 can be seen, make Darwin harbour a major drawcard for tourists. Increased pollution in the harbour would make dining on the wharf or going on a sunset cruise far less pleasurable and may adversely impact tourism businesses.
3. Given it takes on average 20 days for some of the upper parts of the harbor to be flushed out by natural means, perhaps this area needs some special consideration in terms of management.