

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### A Stormwater Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Region

#### Purpose

This implementation plan documents how the NT EPA and the community will achieve the purpose and objectives of *A Stormwater Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Region* released in August 2014 and available on the NT EPA website

The purpose of the strategy is to improve the management of the quality of stormwater entering Darwin Harbour.

The objectives in implementing the strategy are to:

- remedy inadequacies in the regulatory framework;
- engage with the community, industry, local authorities and government agencies to improve stormwater quality;
- improve the capacity to monitor stormwater quality and respond to pollution events;
- provide government and the community with reporting on the progress of the strategy; and
- undertake periodic, public reviews of the effectiveness or otherwise of the strategy.

Consultation and community involvement are critical to the implementation of the plan and the NT EPA will seek every opportunity to engage with Territorians.

#### Priorities

Following consultation with councils, government, industry and the community a number of priorities and tasks have been identified, see Table 1. These prioritised tasks will be worked on incrementally and the time frames proposed in Table 1 are a guide only.

**Table 1 Implementation plan priorities**

	6 MONTHS	6-12 MONTHS	12-24 MONTHS
Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of existing legislative offences and their application to point source discharges to stormwater, litter and illegal dumping.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify gaps and improvements based on the analysis.</li> <li>• From the gap analysis make recommendations to improve the regulatory framework.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate provisions for formalising the role of Environment Management Plans.</li> <li>• With consideration of the gap analysis, review the regulatory framework for the management of stormwater flow impacts on creeks flowing into Darwin Harbour</li> </ul>

## Implementation Plan: Stormwater Strategy for the Darwin Harbour Region

Priorities	6 MONTHS	6-12 MONTHS	12-24 MONTHS
Guidelines, Factsheets and Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and draft community targeted fact sheets for improving stormwater quality.</li> <li>Develop and publish erosion and sediment control guidelines for the construction industry.</li> <li>Identify and draft information sheets on stormwater infrastructure including stormwater treatment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish community-targeted factsheets for improving stormwater quality.</li> <li>Publish information sheets on stormwater infrastructure including stormwater treatment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Point Source Stormwater Quality Guidelines.</li> <li>Assess conformance with published stormwater fact sheets and guidelines.</li> </ul>
Data and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand stormwater hydrology in Darwin Region.</li> <li>Identify urban creeks in the Darwin Harbour Region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and interpret data on creeks (and the impacts from stormwater) in the Darwin Harbour Region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop plans for improving the quality of stormwater entering at risk and/or impacted creeks in the Darwin Harbour Region.</li> </ul>
Communication and Pollution Hotline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the pros and cons and make recommendations on publishing an offences register.</li> <li>Engage with building industry and builders on potentially contaminating activities associated with building sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the pollution hotline.</li> <li>Promote the grants program for community involvement.</li> <li>Investigate a marketing strategy to promote the outcomes of the implementation plan.</li> </ul>	

## Implementation

### Community

The community will be engaged in activities under this plan. They will participate in project teams, collect information and improve stormwater quality by participating in grant-funded projects and actively providing feedback during consultation processes.

### Project teams

Project teams will be formed to action specific tasks as required. The project teams will exist only for the time necessary to complete a particular task(s). The project teams will include subject matter experts and these may change as the project progresses. The number of people in a project team will be proportionate to the tasks the team is seeking to achieve and may fluctuate over time.

### Participants

The project teams will consist of community (including industry) representatives who have expressed an interest in, or experience that relates to, the task of that project team, government agencies and councils. Participants will be invited to express their interest as teams are formed through public notices on the NT EPA webpage and through other relevant media outlets. The NT EPA may seek participation from stakeholders and the community by direct invitation.

Each project team will include an NT EPA representative who will facilitate project team activities and assist the team in communicating outcomes to the members of the NT EPA and the community. The NT EPA facilitator will guide the project team to ensure the objectives of the plan are understood and the project team priorities support these.

Participants will be selected for teams based on the information they provide in their expression of interest. Generally they will have a real interest in the outcomes of the project team and some knowledge of the subject matter.

### Work Plans

Each project team will prepare a work plan that includes the objectives, tasks, resources and a proposed timeline for achieving the expected outcomes. The first task of the work group will be to finalise a work plan. Appendix 1 provides examples of work plans that can be used as a guide for developing the final work plans.

### Reporting

The NT EPA project team facilitator will work with project teams to provide regular updates to the members of the NT EPA, at least twice per year.

### Consultation

The project team activities will adopt the NT EPA's consultation policy. In planning, conducting and finalising tasks the project teams will provide for periods of public consultation. The project teams will be encouraged to ensure the community (including industry) is engaged and the outcomes address community concerns.

## Measuring Performance

The success of the plan will be demonstrated by delivering on the priorities in the timeframes identified in Table 1, and in individual project team work plans.

Thereafter, increased stormwater awareness in the community and the success of project team outputs like fact sheets, guidelines and the marketing strategy will be assessed by a series of comparative analyses including:

- number of stormwater enquiries over time
- number of reports of stormwater pollution in a period versus number of compliance activities
- number of enforcement activities versus number of compliance activities
- water quality and ecosystem health over time.

It is expected that with increased community and industry awareness the number of general enquiries and reports of pollution will increase and then decrease as awareness grows and behaviours change.

## **Reporting and Review**

Local governments, industry and the community will be consulted on their views on the relevance (and progress) of the priorities during targeted consultation meetings. These meetings will occur annually. The NT EPA will present a summary of the implementation plan and what was achieved during the previous 12 month period.

Feedback will be sought from participants as to how completed projects were received within their organisations or community, any opportunities to improve including examples of things that were done well.

Participants at consultation meetings will be asked to provide feedback as to the relevance of the plan moving into the next 12 months and what, if any changes they would like to include.

The NT EPA Annual Report will provide a vehicle for more general reporting to the public on the implementation plan.

## Appendix 1 Example work plans

## Example 1

### Stormwater Strategy Project Team: Community Factsheets

#### Stormwater strategy objective(s)

- Remedy inadequacies in the regulatory framework
- Engage with the community, industry, local authorities and government agencies in improving stormwater quality
- Guidelines, fact sheets and standards

Task	Create community targeted fact sheets for improving stormwater quality. Fact sheet(s) should consider application across wider NT community.	
Management actions and time frames	Form project team  Identify what community factsheets should be created. Fact sheets may cover topics like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming pool and spa backwash water</li> <li>• Washing cars</li> <li>• Illegal stormwater connections</li> <li>• Maintaining stormwater drains and gutters</li> <li>• Irrigation</li> <li>• Fertilisers</li> </ul> Prioritise development of fact sheets  Allocate drafting of fact sheets	2 months
	Draft factsheets in accordance with priorities	6 months
	Consultation on draft fact sheets	4 months
	Publish fact sheets	1 month
Project team members:	Facilitator: NT EPA  Team members: the team members for this project team may include representatives from councils, Department of Health, Department of Lands Planning and the Environment, Department of Land Resource Management and community groups	
Resources required:		
Consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft factsheets circulated to councils and government (Department of Health, Department of Housing, Department of Land Resource Management, Department of Lands Planning and the Environment and Department of Local Government and Regions) (4 weeks).</li> <li>2. NT EPA approve for public consultation via NT EPA webpage and print advertising (6 weeks).</li> <li>3. NT EPA approve for publishing (4 weeks).</li> </ol>	

## Example 2

### Stormwater Strategy Project Team: Industry Factsheets

#### Stormwater strategy objective(s)

- Engage with the community, industry, local authorities and government agencies in improving stormwater quality
- Improve the capacity to monitor stormwater and respond to pollution events
- Guidelines, factsheets and standards

Task	<p>Create a factsheets that provides advice on relevant stormwater infrastructure and treatment options for industry.</p> <p>Factsheet(s) should consider application across wider NT community.</p>	
Management actions and time frames	<p>Form project team. The project team may be industry specific or cover topics that are common amongst multiple industry groups.</p> <p>Identify what industry factsheets should be created. Factsheets may cover topics like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanics, car detailers and car yards</li> <li>• Concreting</li> <li>• Mobile pet care</li> <li>• Carpet cleaners</li> <li>• Painting and tiling</li> <li>• Shops and shopping centers</li> </ul> <p>Prioritise development of factsheets</p> <p>Allocate drafting of factsheets</p>	2 months
	Draft factsheets in accordance with priorities	6 months
	Consultation on draft factsheets	4 months
	Publish factsheets	1 month
Members:	<p>Facilitator: NT EPA</p> <p>Representatives: Industry, councils</p>	
Resources required:		
Consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft factsheets circulated to councils and government (Department of Health, Department of Housing, Department of Land Resource Management, Department of Lands Planning and the Environment, Power and Water Corporation, and Department of Local Government and Regions) (4 weeks).</li> <li>2. NT EPA approve for public consultation via NT EPA webpage and print advertising (6 weeks).</li> <li>3. NT EPA approve for publishing (4 weeks).</li> </ol>	

## Example 3

### Stormwater Strategy Project Team: Creeks

#### Stormwater strategy objective(s)

- Engage with the community, industry, local authorities and government agencies in improving stormwater quality
- Improve the capacity to monitor stormwater and respond to pollution events
- Data and monitoring

Task	To identify priority creeks that flow into the Darwin Harbour catchment and develop an understanding of stormwater inputs and their impacts.	
Management actions and timeframes	Form project team	1 month
	Identify and prioritise urban creeks (using an agreed set of assessment criteria).	1 month
	Establishing what information is required and how to collect the information.	1 month
	Develop plans for collecting and collating information on the top three priority urban creeks.	18 months
	Form urban creek sub teams specific to priority urban creeks.	1 month
	Implement plans for collecting and collating information on the top three priority urban creeks.	
	Report findings.	6 months
Members:	Facilitator: NT EPA  Representatives: community groups, Department Land Resource Management, councils, Department of Lands Planning and the Environment.	
Resources required:		
Consultation	Consultation must be conducted in accordance with the NT EPA consultation policy.	