Lauren Moss
Minister for Environment and Natural Resources

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee Expressions of Interest (EOI) and Darwin Harbour Report Card

11 February 2017

Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Lauren Moss today delivered on a key election commitment by announcing an expression of interest process for community members to join the new Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC).

“This was an election promise and we are delivering on it – it’s another way we are restoring trust in Government,” Ms Moss said.

“Darwin Harbour is one of our greatest natural assets and it’s crucial that we continue to preserve and protect it for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

“Territorians have a vital role to play in helping to manage our precious environmental assets and that’s why we are ensuring that the right mechanisms are in place so the community’s views are front and centre in environmental decision-making.

“Re-establishing the Committee is an important election commitment that formed a part of our Protecting Our Marine Environment policy, I am pleased to announce an EOI process is now underway to fill positions on this Committee.

“I will be looking for the Committee to include a wide range of stakeholders, including Indigenous leaders, recreational fishers, researchers and representatives from local businesses and industry.”

The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee’s role will be to provide the Territory Government with advice on:

- the effective management of Darwin Harbour and its catchment to ensure a balance between sustainable development and the environment;
- a working harbour important for a range of cultural, recreational and economic values; and
- the protection and maintenance of healthy environments in the harbour and its catchment, now and into the future.

“The Committee’s first task will be developing a comprehensive plan of management for Darwin Harbour, including a plan to protect vital habitats like mangroves,” Ms Moss said.
“Today I am also pleased to announce the release of the 2016 **Darwin Harbour Report Card**.

“The report card shows the water quality across most of Darwin Harbour graded as very good or excellent. But we can’t afford to be complacent.

“We need to continue to carefully monitor and manage the way we interact with the Harbour to ensure its ongoing health, while ensuring that Territorians can continue to enjoy what it has to offer in terms of recreational activity and economic opportunities.”

The Report Card has been published annually since 2009 and is supplemented by a technical report that provides detailed information about water quality monitoring data.

To view the report card and get further information about the EOI please visit nt.gov.au/water

The EOI closes on Tuesday, 7 April.

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