

Charter Boat Operators Meeting
Tuesday 30 August 2005
2nd Floor Conference Room, Development House, 76 The Esplanade

The meeting was opened at 9am by Murray Hird, Director, Industry Development, Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development (DBERD)

Present:

Murray Hird	DBERD
Jeff Norton	DBERD
Catherine Dawson	DBERD
Katie and Shane Hearn	Cape Adieu Harbour Cruises
Janne Stewart	Australian Harbour Cruises
Chris Cleveland	Darwin Cruises and Charters
Grant Hatcher	Match the Hatch Fishing Charters
John Jordan	Equinox Fishing Charters
Lloyd Browne	NT Fishing Industry Association
Karen and Robert Marchant	NT Fishing Office

Murray began the meeting with a brief overview of why the group had been formed and asked members of the meeting to provide their view of where their particular business might be in five years time and where they were at the present time.

From discussions a “wish list” was compiled of what each person would like to see happen for the charter boat industry.

Main points which arose were:

- Safety issues with loading/unloading passengers at current boat ramps
- Parking and access for buses etc at current boat ramps is an ongoing problem
- Stokes Hill Wharf under continuing pressure and needs alterations – this problem is seen to get worse in the future
- Are any of Darwin’s boat ramps up to Australian Standards? Most are slippery due to lack of maintenance and there is a requirement for an all tide access boat ramp with pontoons alongside – how is maintenance monitored and whose responsibility is it?
- Fishing charter operators require a review of the Fisheries Act
- Tyre link pontoons – is there official documentation to state their suitability for use in Darwin?
- Is there an Environmental Impact Statement for dredging work in Darwin?
- Cullen Bay a great facility but needs moderations/alterations to accommodate charter boats. The group felt that Cullen Bay could be

the answer to many current problems if the rock wall could be extended creating a marina enclosure with no lock

- Use of the lock at Cullen Bay could be better managed
- Facilities/toilets etc around the harbour are poor
- A short/long term development plan needs to be set in place

Actions from this meeting were:

- Find out more about the running of Cullen Bay facilities and facts about lock and marina use – Cullen Bay Marina Manager, Bruce Wentiro 0403 275571
- Find out from AQIS what the requirements are for visiting vessels using Cullen Bay wharf
- Speak to Gus Whitnall – Mandorah Ferries regarding access to the Mandorah Ferry Terminal
- Find out from DPI whether maintaining boat ramps is in their budget
- John Coleman from NTTC needs to be invited to the next meeting
- Develop an economic impact questionnaire to be sent out to operators
- Find out from the waterfront development how they see Stokes Hill Wharf within the waterfront plans at the present time
- Find out the status with Dinah Beach and Hornibrooks wharf
- Members at the meeting to try and get more people to attend next meeting
- DBERD to continue to provide secretariat support in the short term
- Notes from meeting to be sent out to meeting participants for review and sent on to the wider Darwin charter boat industry via email once content is agreed

The meeting was closed at 10.45am

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 4 October at 9am in the 1st Floor Conference Room, Development House, 76 The Esplanade