

media release

Strategic planning process guides future land use

18 November 2014

The Northern Territory Planning Commission (NTPC) will today publish its Community Consultation Report and Chairman's Summary Report following the preparation of the Darwin Regional Land Use Plan.

The two reports include summaries of the submissions and comments received throughout the consultation process, which commenced with a Briefing note in July 2013 followed by a preliminary *Towards a Darwin Regional Land Use Plan* document. The final Draft Darwin Regional Land Use Plan was then released for public exhibition and comment for a period of six weeks from July through to early September 2014.

NTPC Chairman Gary Nairn said an important part of the strategic planning process is to demonstrate to the public how submissions and comments are incorporated into the final draft document.

"During the two extensive consultation periods for the Plan, there were 26 stakeholder briefings; public displays at six different venues and a total of 155 submissions were received.

"The Planning Commission appreciates the strong interest shown by the community and thanks all contributors for the many comments and suggested amendments to the planning document," Mr Nairn said.

Darwin-based Consultants Michels Warren Munday prepared the Community Consultation Report which is available for download from today on the NT Planning Commission website at www.planningcommission.nt.gov.au.

The Community Consultation report documents feedback on the planning process, as well as specific issues raised throughout the consultation.

A Chairman's Summary Report has also been published which outlines how the NTPC has addressed feedback on issues such as:

- recognising Indigenous culture, protection of Darwin harbour and wildlife, and the importance of Darwin as a key tropical tourism gateway
- identifying road and transport corridors that create opportunities for future use of rapid bus transport, rail and ferries
- managing growth into adjoining rural areas,
- a new deep water port at Glyde Point and the creation of a lake on the Elizabeth River.

In October 2014, the NTPC submitted its proposed Darwin Regional Land Use Plan for consideration by the Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, who has today announced the exhibition of the Plan.

"The Planning Commission, as an independent advisory body, accepts the Minister's decision in amending two aspects of the Plan, the removal of Lake Elizabeth, and the slight relocation of the future city of Weddell. It is important to note however, that the majority of the Plan was accepted by the Minister, and may ultimately become part of the Planning Scheme, which is a great step forward for the Darwin Region," Mr Nairn said.

Media – for further information contact Lesley Major 0419 288 284