

Where you live in Darwin is special

Did you know that where you live is special and so are 24 other areas in Darwin? Each area has its own unique environmental, recreational, social, cultural and land use characteristics and issues. Darwin City Council is developing an Environmental Management Plan to protect Darwin's environment and your quality of life into the future.

Did you know that environmental issues and concerns differ greatly across Darwin? For example, some pollution moves with stormwater. Stormwater flows into drains and mainly discharges into the harbour. Therefore, the things that we do can have a big impact on the quality of stormwater and its impact on the harbour.

Did you know that for us to protect what is important to you we have to know what we have in the first place? Our first step has been to create a 'map' of each area, which we call an Environmental Management Unit and these are then combined in an Atlas. To ensure that this Atlas covers all the bases we have started with what information we already know about each area and have identified what some of the issues are. Most importantly we need to be sure that:

- It represents the views of Darwin residents.
- Council is aware of what you would like to see protected now and into the future.
- Important environmental concerns, problems and issues in your neighbourhood are recorded so that Council's Action Plan reflects the wishes and expectations of the community as a whole.

Help us to protect your environment and have your say
Please take the time to complete and return the enclosed survey

To find out more – **Come and talk to your Aldermen and EMP Advisory Committee members at the Parap Markets on Saturday 25 March 2006, from 9:00 am**

Your Aldermen are Alderman Joanne Sangster phone: 0408 746 487 (Chairman, Environment Management Plan Advisory Committee)
Alderman Rodger Dee phone: 0439 751 954, Alderman Helen Galton phone: 0400 659 661
and Alderman Heather Sjoberg phone: 8981 0714 (A/H)

An Atlas extract for your local area is provided below. The full Atlas and all related strategies can be viewed at Darwin City Council Libraries at Casuarina, Karama, Nightcliff and City (Civic Centre) and on the Council website: www.darwin.nt.gov.au

EMP Atlas Extract for Rapid Creek South/Marrara Environmental Management Unit (EMU)

Description:

The RAPID CREEK SOUTH/ MARRARA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UNIT (EMU) includes the Darwin International Airport, RAAF Base, Marrara Sporting Complex, Darwin Golf Course, CSIRO and includes the suburbs of southern Moil, southern Anula and southern Karama. Non-government and government organisations have formed partnerships with the local community and founded the Rapid Creek Catchment Advisory Committee to work towards environmental rehabilitation of degraded areas. The Australian Heritage Register includes the RAAF Base precinct and the No 129 Water Tower. Marrara Sporting Complex is home to most of the events of the Arafura Games, which is held every two years.

The Natural Environment:

Rapid Creek south, which emerges as a waterway on Department of Defence land at the extensive Marrara Swamp, is the only significant freshwater system in Darwin and as such is considered to be of environmental and social importance. Connected to woodland at Darwin Airport this area forms one of the largest native vegetation remnants in Darwin. The natural vegetation corridor in the east of this EMU connecting the Marrara Swamp to Holmes Jungle in the east and Charles Darwin National Park in the south is of vital importance in the maintenance of biodiversity in Darwin.

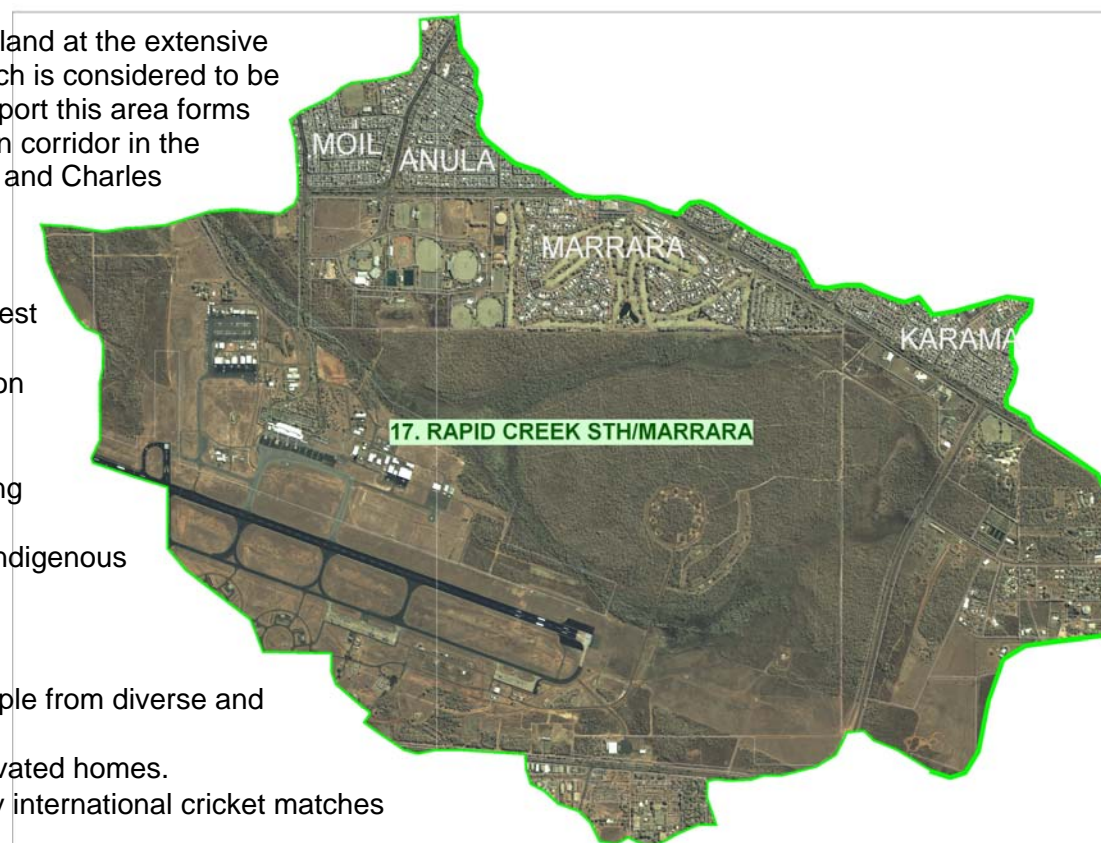
- A second important native vegetation corridor links the woodlands in the west of this EMU ultimately to the Coconut Grove mangroves.
- 8 recreation parks – Moil Park, Byrne Park, Linde Park, Butters Park, Wilson Park, Creber Park, Carnoustie Park and the grounds surround the oval.
- 10 road reserves
- 1 bushland reserve - Charles Eaton Drive/ Rapid Creek Reserve, consisting primarily of riverine monsoon vine forest.
- The bushland reserve is a focal point for gatherings/ meetings for visiting indigenous people.

The Social and Built Environment:








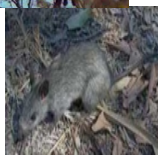


- The Rapid Creek South/ Marrara EMU is home to approximately 4942 people from diverse and multicultural backgrounds.
- Architecture of the EMU's suburbs consists of single occupancy low or elevated homes.
- Marrara Sporting Complex is home to the Arafura games, test and one day international cricket matches and the AFL pre- season matches.
- Darwin Golf Course

Land Ownership:

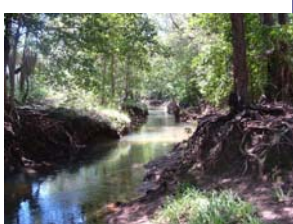














Land ownership rests with a variety of stakeholders, including the Crown, Department of Defence, Darwin City Council, Darwin International Airport Corporation, Larrakia Nation and NLC on behalf of the Larrakia people (the traditional owners of the area), private residents and commercial operators.



Summary Table 1 - Known Values (Uses, Importance, Significance, Appeal, Attraction)

Social Values	Environmental Values	Recreational Values	Heritage/Cultural Values	Economic & Governance Values
<p>Multicultural neighbourhood – emphasis on social & recreational gatherings:</p> 	<p>Vegetation communities/habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melaleuca forests Seasonal swamps Riparian monsoon vine forests. Woodlands Grasslands 	<p>Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic & BBQ Bushwalking Cycling Athletics & football Golf Horseback riding Bird-watching 	<p>Riverine parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural/Traditional Gathering places   	<p>Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darwin City Council (DCC) (Service provision: Parks, Roads, Waste, Flood mitigation etc) Department of Defence Facilities (employment, security) Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) NRETA <p>Commercial/corporate/business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airport operations (Tourism, employment, transport, access to Australia & foreign countries) Mineral extraction 
<p>Thriving indigenous community - demonstrated through active interest/participation in environmental & cultural/heritage issues workshop/ group/ committees</p> <p>Social aspect - emphasis on sporting activities.</p>	<p>Fauna & flora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit bats Variety of bird species Freshwater fish and other aquatic fauna Frogs and lizards Mammals, including the Black-footed Tree-rat, listed as 'Threatened Species' on NT list, identified in woodlands on Airport land, the Melomy, Wallabies, and Bandicoots Bladderwort plant (<i>Utricularia hamiltonii</i>) listed as 'Threatened Species' on NT list identified in Melaleuca Swamp on Airport land. Also highly likely to occur in Marrara Swamp.  	<p>Aquatic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming Fishing – freshwater  		

Summary Table 2 Issues and Initiatives

Values	Issues	Initiatives	
		What?	Who?
<p>Environmental</p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animals (pigs, rats, dogs and cats) Mosquitoes Maintaining vegetation/wildlife corridors Litter and rubbish dumping Changes to landforms and soils by filling, dumping, and excavating. Changes to hydrology due to increased urbanisation, filling and drainage works. Water quality – decline due to pollution from chemicals, nutrients, sediments, bacteria and litter; low dissolved oxygen, high turbidity, nutrients & litter during wet (run off), accidents from fuel storage etc. Erosion – creek bank degradation from fires, floods & pests (pigs, rodents etc) Uncontrolled vehicle and pedestrian access to the riparian and floodplain communities Weed infestation Uncoordinated/difficult environmental management (Overlapping jurisdictions and land ownership issues) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up Australia Day activities Catchment Management Plan 1994 Fire Management Plan 2000 Weed Management Plan 2000 Access and Signage Master Plan Rapid Creek Integrated Management Project - funded by NHT 1999/2000, outcome 340 ha of existing vegetation enhanced  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Volunteers & DCC funded Rapid Creek Catchment Advisory Committee (DCC, DPI, NRETA, Defence, Darwin Airport, Larrakia Association, CDU, Greening Australia, Rapid Creek Landcare Group, community) Rapid Creek Catchment Advisory Committee – work particularly by Green Corp, RC Landcare Group, landholders & Greening Australia 
<p>Social</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Itinerant camping and sleeping arrangements Public health – Littering, sanitation, potable water Consumption of alcohol and associated amenity/peace disturbances Development (rezoning to high density, population growth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC public places program Community patrol General patrols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC Regulatory Services Mission Australia NT Police Service St Vincent De Paul
<p>Recreational</p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algae blooms Fire & vermin hazard from long grass, dense vegetation during wet Access restrictions due to areas of value (ie. Yankee Ponds & Marrara Wetlands) Health hazards from littering, mosquitoes, reptiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross pollutant trap installation Parks & gardens maintenance Weed Management Plan 2000 Mosquito spraying program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darwin City Council, Darwin International Airport Rapid Creek Catchment Advisory Committee, Plan endorsed by Council Larrakia Nation Landcare group Department of Health
<p>Heritage/cultural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to sites of significance (ie. Private or federal ownership that restricts/prevents access) Limited cultural/heritage site investigation have been conducted in the Rapid Creek area 		 
<p>Commercial/business/industry</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting or developing business that carry the risk of releasing pollutants in an area with high environmental values. Industry/ commercial/ retail waste disposal Flooding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 2003 Shoal Bay landfill Public place litter program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) Department of Natural Resources the Environment and Arts (NRETA) Darwin City Council 

Examples of current environmental protection action by Darwin City Council include:

- Biodiversity - fauna and flora surveys at Rapid Creek and Lake Alexander
- Public places litter audits for 400 ha of bush and park lands managed by Council
- Construction of a \$1,250,000 million Regional Recycling and Resource Recovery Facility at Shoal Bay Waste Depot
- Development of an Energy Conservation Plan for Darwin City Council in partnership with the Cities for Climate Protection Program
- Environmental education programs with Darwin schools, including recycling education and the "Champions for the Environment Darwin" program whereby individual schools champion a problem site and work to enhance or protect native habitats and/or waterways