

## Recreational Fishing: The Future

The Country Liberal Party will continue to ensure the Northern Territory remains the pre-eminent recreational fishing destination in Australia through a dedicated strategy addressing resources, protection and access to our fish-stocks.

Recreational Fishing contributes substantially to the Northern Territory economy through tourism, local participation and commercial operators. Importantly, it is a major part of our Territory lifestyle.

The Country Liberal Party recognises that – and we will protect our lifestyle for the future.

In contrast, Labor have not been innovative or decisive in their approach to recreational fishing issues. They have chosen only to follow our former initiatives.

Labor has shown through past actions that it is not prepared to make hard decisions and has broken their 2001 election promises to;

- Implement regional agreements, allowing recreational fishermen to be part of negotiations,
- Implement a 5 year rolling capital works program for fishing infrastructure,
- Establish a marine park in Bynoe Harbour,
- Focus the Department of Fisheries on Recreational Fishing and regionalise the placement of fisheries staff, and
- Develop greater fishing education in schools.

The Country Liberal Party has a long and proud history of preserving our important fisheries in the Territory.

By taking the necessary steps since self-government, we have ensured that Territorians and visitors to the Territory have been able to participate in one of their favourite lifestyle activities – Recreational Fishing.

## Recreational Fishing: The Future

**The Territory  
needs energy**

**We had it before  
We need it again**



The Country Liberal Party in government will put focus and energy back into recreational fishing, recognising its importance to our lifestyle.

The Country Liberal Party has a strategy for the future that builds on our past good reputation for having the foresight to close some waterways to commercial harvest, to reduce net sizes, to implement bag limits, to promote recreational fishing tourism and to provide formal access to many of our popular waterways.

### **For Recreational Fishing, the Country Liberal Party will;**

- Continue to ensure the Territory remains the pre-eminent recreational fishing destination in Australia.
- Work with the Commonwealth, land owners and recreational fishermen to achieve greater access for recreational fishing in coastal waters and waterways including ongoing access in any future proposed marine parks and marine protected areas.
- Reinstate Primary Industries and Fisheries as a separate government department.
- Seek opportunities as they arise to maximise access with local landholders such as formal access to the King River Junction, new access points to the Mary River Wetlands, the Victoria River and the Daly River.
- Continue the programme of upgrading and providing greater security at boat ramps across the Territory and the construction of a further 10 boat ramps in consultation with AFANT and stakeholders.
- Construct a land based fishing platform alongside the existing boat ramp at Palmerston including shade, railings, bins and fish cleaning tables. We will also provide lighting to the Car Park and facilitate a kiosk to operate from the site.

## **Recreational Fishing: The Future**

**The Territory  
needs energy**

*We had it before  
We need it again*



- Increase the number of artificial reefs around the Territory coastline;
- Introduce a code of practice for recreational fishing in the Northern Territory and will initiate a communication strategy to raise awareness and educate the public on recreational fishing issues.
- In consultation with the AFANT, to assist conservation, we will review the bag limit for recreational fishermen for various species, including the black jewfish,
- Immediately implement a 5 year strategy to reduce the commercial Barramundi fishing effort in the Top End. This will be done in full consultation with all stakeholders and with fair market compensation for commercial licence holders and will include:
  - Buy-back of at least 10 Barramundi licences;
  - Waterway closures where appropriate; and
  - Reviewing capture methods, net sizes and effort location.
- Increase resources for research and development, including the continuation of the 5-year survey for recreational fishing and research and development in the recreational Barramundi fishery in particular.
- Ensure that immediate action is taken to contain any pollutants entering the waterways adjacent to the Mt Todd Mine site and develop a full program of rehabilitation works to ensure future permanent containment.
- Under a CLP Government there will be NO recreational fishing licences and NO boat registration.
- Introduce a 50% fee reduction on boat trailer registration.

**The Territory  
needs energy**

*We had it before  
We need it again*



## Recreational Fishing: The Future

- Ensure the Marine Fisheries Enforcement Unit is adequately resourced to provide a very visible presence on our waterways.
- Close Bynoe Harbour to wild harvest commercial fishing including commercial mud crabbing but excluding ecologically – sustainable aquaculture.
- Close the Finniss River to wild harvest commercial fishing including commercial mud crabbing but excluding ecologically – sustainable aquaculture.
- Continue the barramundi fingerling stocking program at selected sites, such as Manton Dam and closed river systems.
- Investigate the sustainability of the coastal net fishery, in consultation with all stakeholders and initiate a buy back of these licences and reallocation to aboriginal community groups for local consumption purposes where appropriate.

Recreational Fishing contributes substantially to the Northern Territory economy and is a major part of our Territory lifestyle. The Country Liberal Party recognises that – and we will protect our lifestyle for the future.

Our comprehensive approach and strategy will mean a new era for Recreational Fishing and guarantee its future.

***The Territory  
needs energy***

***We had it before  
We need it again***

