



Dear Member,

This past month has seen AFANT vigorously pursuing the issue of Mud Crab stock sustainability both in the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Greater Darwin Zone. We have grave concerns that unless fishing restrictions are put in place in the Gulf of Carpentaria the Mud Crab stocks may become unsustainable for recreational fishing. Despite numerous anecdotal evidence of poor catches from recreational fishermen and a struggling commercial fishery as a result of the Mud Crab Management Advisory Committee meeting in May NT Fisheries have committed to further scientific studies. These results will be presented in August and will influence any future management actions.

The CLP governments budget announcements late last month provided only a small measure of satisfaction for the recreational fishing community with \$1 million to upgrade the Corroboree Billabong Access Road, \$15 million over two years to upgrade Gunn Point Road and \$250,000 per annum to upgrade Point Stuart Road. Disappointingly there was no money allocated for future barramundi stocking in residential lakes, artificial reefs or land based fishing platforms despite a significant need for these projects.

A positive announcement last month was that Minister for Land Resources Management, Garry Higgins, has finally listened to community concerns and has agreed to re-establish Water Advisory Committees in key planning areas including the Daly (Oolloo) and Katherine (Tindall-Matakana) aquifers. However, this may be a case of too little, too late as under the previous Minister all the water in both the Daly (Oolloo) and Katherine (Tindal-Mataranka) aquifers was fully allocated and many of these licenses do not expire for another 10 years. So it begs the question of what role these Water Advisory Committees will play.

Tight lines,

Tristan Sloan  
Executive Officer

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*Representing recreational fishing in the NT and ensuring the quality of our sport*

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## Finniss River Closure Line

There has been some public confusion over the exact coordinates for the Finniss River Closure Line. Northern Territory Government, Water Police and NLC have agreed the below coordinates are correct using WGS84 in decimal minutes.

- 130.41, -12.90267 (or 130o 24.600'E, 12o 54.160'S) on the north river bank and
- 130.41, -12.904 (or 130o 24.600'E, 12o 54.240'S) on the south river bank



## Contract Awarded for Dundee & Shady Camp Boat Ramp

The long awaited construction of for both the Dundee and Shady Camp boat ramps will begin this month following tenders for the projects being awarded in late May.

Mark Cundall Earthmoving Pty Ltd secured the \$4.79 million construction contract for the Dundee boat ramp and Aldebaran Contracting Pty Ltd has been signed on to build the \$1.23million Shady Camp boat ramp

AFANT urges recreational fishermen using the areas during construction to exercise patience and we certainly look forward recreational fishermen utilising the finished facilities later this year



### CROC BYTE #1

Fishing with your mates this holiday season? Always remember to Be Crocwise.

Saltwater crocodiles can attack people in boats – the smaller the boat, the greater the risk.

Before you head out on the water, check out the recent catch up with Will Hopoate and Corey Norman from the Parramatta Eels.

[Be Crocwise - With Parramatta Eels](#)

## Grassroots Grants for Fishing Clubs

After 12 months of lobbying Government

AFANT has now successfully achieved the inclusion of recreational fishing clubs under the Grassroots Grants program for the Department of Sport and Recreation. Affiliated NT fishing clubs under AFANT will now be eligible to apply for Grass Roots Grants to the value of \$5K to invest in developing their clubs in the following areas:

- Programs or events to increase junior participation in fishing for boys and girls
- Appropriate protective and safety equipment for junior programs and/or events
- Assistance to develop club volunteer base
- Training for administrators and officials
- Assistance to become incorporated
- Minor facility upgrades

The Darwin Game Fishing Club and Palmerston Game Fishing Club were the first to benefit each receiving \$5K towards their junior angling clinics.



### FISHERIES TIP #1

Want to ensure there are plenty of fish for our children to catch?

Take/catch no more than your immediate needs.

Recreational fishing is about having a great day on the water and catching a feed for your family.

For more information visit the Fisheries website at [www.dpif.nt.gov.au/Fisheries](http://www.dpif.nt.gov.au/Fisheries) or use the NT Fishing Mate App.

Good fishing!



## AFANT to Benefit from Volunteer Grants

AFANT has recently been successful in its application for funding under the Department of Social Services Volunteer Grants 2015.

The Australian Government has invested \$20 million in Volunteer Grants 2015 in recognition of the valuable role of volunteers and to encourage volunteering in the local community.

AFANT would like to thank the Hon Christian Porter MP, Minister for Social Services. This grant funding will be used to train and support AFANT volunteers in our fish tagging programs and volunteers in fishing clinics for our affiliated clubs.

### Shoal Bay Mud Crab MOU

AFANT have been working hard to secure the closure of commercial mud crab fishing in Bynoe Harbour and the flats in Shoal Bay. Poor wet seasons have threatened the collapse of the commercial crabbing industry and pushed the commercial crabbers from the Gulf of Carpentaria into the Greater Darwin Zone threatening the ability of recreational fishermen to catch crabs. At this stage AFANT has negotiated a 12 month restriction on commercial crabbing in Shoal Bay with the Northern Territory Seafood Council.

If Commercial Mud Crab fishermen are sighted in Shoal Bay, please notify AFANT immediately on 0415 471 600 or [eo@afant.com.au](mailto:eo@afant.com.au)



## History of AFANT Video

AFANT is in the process of compiling historical video footage and photographs of early AFANT activities, AGM's and past committee members for a promotional video on the history and achievements of AFANT.

If you possess any video material or photographs of AFANT which you would be happy to share please contact us on 8945 6455 or [research@afant.com.au](mailto:research@afant.com.au)