

# AFANT Election Breakdown August, 2016



Dear Member,

Attached to this membership e-mail is a breakdown of all the major political parties commitments that they have made towards infrastructure and fisheries enhancement initiatives that AFANT has been seeking to improve recreational fishing in the Northern Territory. Our full Recreational Fishing Policy document can be found on the AFANT website.

Aside from specific infrastructure and fisheries enhancement initiatives requested by AFANT each major political party has also committed to numerous other initiatives for recreational fishing including environmental protections for our fisheries. I have provided an accurate description of these in the document below.

Recreational fishing is a prime lifestyle and cultural component of living in the Northern Territory with 25% of our population owning a boat and participating in this great sport of ours. The fisheries of the north are world class and the habitat that supports them is relatively pristine, allowing our \$100 Million dollar economy based on recreational fishing to prosper.

AFANT believes that in order to ensure these fisheries and the great lifestyle we enjoy survives into the future we as anglers must be vocal about protecting, enhancing and supporting our fisheries for the future.

Please bear this in mind when you cast your vote on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Sloan'.

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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## Country Liberal Party

The CLP party will:

- Invest \$12 million towards the development of a facility at the Palmerston/Elizabeth Boat Ramp area to transform it into a world-class recreational fishing precinct. The funds will not only be directed towards upgrading the existing boat ramp and Jetty, but also to incentivise the development of commercial and retail space associated with the recreational fishing industry.
- Invest \$500,000 a year for three years towards an Inshore Fisheries Taskforce to develop harvest strategies and allocations among the various fishing sectors, restructure inshore fisheries including crabbing, consider inshore commercial licence buybacks and work to resolve outstanding Blue Mud Bay negotiations. This task force will be made up of stakeholder groups including all industry representatives.
- Continue the popular Million Dollar Fish competition.
- Identify a boat ramp location at Howard River.
- Review legislation for the appointment of Rangers to enforce Fisheries Regulations and to also provide greater enhancement of the roles of Police Officers and ACPO's.
- Continue the successful Fisheries Resource Sharing Framework that gives different users shared access to fish resources.
- Build the Dundee boat ramp and the Shady Camp boat ramp extension.
- Develop a "Green Belt" strategy over the Upper Rapid Creek area through a management plan covering access, conservation, protection, development, leisure and recreation activities. This "Green Belt" strategy will include;
  - Identify recreation and conservation linkage corridors to maximise enjoyment and lifestyle while preserving natural values.
  - High level community engagement to better understand the area's natural values and how future development should co-exist
  - Maximise opportunities for the development of community space, visitor amenity and attractions to compliment lifestyle experiences
  - Identify how to preserve and protect local flora and fauna as well as cultural values
  - Opportunity to expand model to other areas in future, including Knuckey's Lagoon, Charles Darwin National Park, Holmes Jungle Reserve, and eventually Buffalo Creek, Howard Springs Nature Park and Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve.



## NT Labor Party

NT Labor will invest in the infrastructure requirements of recreational fishing across the Territory. In the first term of Government Labor will commit \$50 million in funds to the development of needed recreational fishing infrastructure. Recreational fishing stakeholders will be engaged in drawing up key projects against this expenditure if Labor is elected to government. Labor has committed a portion of these funds towards projects identified by AFANT to immediately get underway.

In addition to this infrastructure commitment Labor will:

- Work with Indigenous representative organisations and Indigenous communities to develop a Fishing NT Remote Community Prospectus of potential fishing tourism investments.
- Labor will ensure that an active Ministerial Advisory Council is in place that can advise on both the direction and implementation of recreational fishing policy and future recreational fishing infrastructure requirements. The Ministerial Advisory Committee will also provide advice on promotion and sustainable development of the industry.
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- Establish a grants program aimed at backing the Fishing NT Remote Community Prospectus.
- Labor recognises the enormous potential to leverage the expertise of Top End Indigenous ranger groups in caring for land and sea country and monitoring recreational fishing on Aboriginal land.
- Labor will work with all partners seeking to negotiate new access agreements on freehold, pastoral and Aboriginal lands and improvements to supporting infrastructure; such as roads, cattle grids on access roads, boat ramps and other facilities.
- Develop a Coastal and Marine Management Strategy that will safeguard our coasts boosting recreational fishing opportunities, preventing damaging pollution, foster sustainable industries and safeguard the Territory's unique lifestyle.
- Reinstatement of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee to develop a comprehensive plan of management for Darwin Harbour.
- Invest \$400 000 to develop a comprehensive plan of management for Limmen Bight Marine Park which protects the rich biodiversity of the region, supports Indigenous aspirations for economic development opportunities and management of the area, and protects access for recreational anglers.
- Provide \$200 000 to the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University for urgent mangrove research to understand the threats posed by climate change and possible adaptation strategies to pursue.



- Stop the CLP's plans to expand Bayview and the resulting mangrove destruction.
  - Territory Labor will implement a moratorium covering all unconventional gas prospecting exploration and extraction activities that will continue until the expiration of or the completion of: -
    - a. an independent expert advisory panel who will undertake a scientific inquiry which will include a peer review of all work done on the unconventional gas industry in the Territory and will review recent science and its reported environmental impacts. The inquiry will include critical baseline groundwater and surface water studies to be undertaken; baseline fugitive emissions data collection; fault line mapping; baseline health impact assessment; and the identification of priority areas for protection in no go zones. The panel will consist of reputable independent experts from fields such as environmental and biological science, water resources, eco toxicology, workforce planning, petroleum regulation and public health. Labor will set into place world leading environmental protection policies, regulations and processes that will be properly funded to do their job.
    - b. a thorough community consultation process during and following the panel report. The consultation would include relevant stakeholder and community groups and is to be transparent, genuine and will include regional and remote consultation such as landholders, traditional owners and their representatives and unions.
  - c. development of the regulatory framework ensuring appropriate environmental protections and safeguards
- At the end of this process Labor in government will decide to either: -
1. Ban hydraulic fracturing;
  2. Allow hydraulic fracturing in highly regulated and tightly prescribed areas.

Labor will ensure that:

- science and evidence will be at the centre of all environmental decision making. We need to gather more information, share more information and not ignore data that might be inconvenient;
- our processes will be transparent and accountable to the community;
- we will transfer all environmental approval, assessment, oversight and enforcement powers to the Department of the Environment and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and properly fund these enforcement bodies to do their jobs.



## 1Territory

1Territory has publicly voiced its support for recreational fishing and protection of the environment that supports it.

Key environmental protection policies include:

- An independent EPA.
- Effective legislation, which provides a framework for a healthy and resilient environment.
- An engaged and supportive community.
- Protecting the Northern Territory's unique natural environment.
- Maintaining water quality and availability.
- Creating liveable cities and communities with shrinking environmental footprints.
- 1 Territory does not believe that there is enough science to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that Fracking is safe for the environment of the Northern Territory. Consequently, until it can be proved 100% that fracking is safe and will not destroy the environment of the Northern Territory then 1 Territory will not support fracking of shale gas in the Northern Territory. We believe that water is our greatest asset and no harm should come its way.

Recreational fishing commitments include:

- Introducing recreational fishing and the identification of flora and fauna into the educational curriculum.
- Promoting employment training for school children to obtain their Coxswains certificate.



## NT Greens

The NT Greens will:

- Undertake a Territory wide marine protected area planning process that will work with all stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of co-managed Marine Protected Areas, integrated with Commonwealth Marine Reserves. This process will be based on ecosystem science and traditional ecological knowledge. The Marine Protected Areas will be based on a core network of large no-take sanctuary zones that enables the full range of uses and impacts of the marine environment to be identified and managed.
- Fund the development, implementation, evaluation and ongoing comanagement.
- of Marine Protected Areas in NT waters.
- Following consultation and consent, work with interested Traditional Owners of Sea Country to develop new Indigenous Marine Protected Areas that draw on traditional marine knowledge and customary law and tenure systems to achieve ecological and culturally sustainable marine management.
- Ensure Aboriginal Traditional Owners can sustainably hunt, harvest and profit from marine resources within marine protected areas and sanctuaries.
- Undertake a thorough scientific assessment and evaluation of biological, physical and cultural resources and values in Northern Territory waters and, where appropriate, make this information publicly available for marine planning.
- Undertake effective catchment management to reduce land-based sources of marine pollution, including pollution from urban, agricultural and industrial sources.
- Closely scrutinize petroleum exploration and development in northern waters to identify and mitigate potential risks from spills and accidents to sensitive marine environments.
- Restrict the use of underwater blasting, seismic testing and other technologies that cause ecological harm, particularly to marine mammals.
- Ensure Northern Territory fisheries are sustainably managed using ecological assessments and the Precautionary Principle, to ensure fish stocks and marine biodiversity remain healthy and abundant for future generations.
- Increase the powers of the Northern Territory EPA to monitor and prosecute pollution of marine and coastal environments.
- Fund the upgrading of sewerage treatment plants in Darwin Harbour to ensure the long term health of the harbour and its wildlife.
- Ban sea-bed mining in Northern Territory waters.



- Put in place strong measures to avoid harmful and toxic waste spills in all Territory waters.
- Ensure resource companies, working in or near the NT, pay the full costs of clean-up and monitoring of any marine and coastal damage resulting from their activities, even if the damage is outside of Australia.
- Advocate for co-operation between Territory and federal governments to implement a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas across Northern Australia.
- Advocate for adequate public funding for research to inform protection, conservation and responsible management of the Territory's marine and coastal environments.
- Reform the NT Fisheries Act, 1988 to address aspirations of Indigenous communities.
- Introduce zoning level protection that prohibits the clearing of, and other destructive actions in, all remaining mangroves. Exceptions may accommodate planned community access to waterways.
- Identify significant mangrove communities for high level protection and active management as conservation reserves.
- Prohibit the development of canal estates, which are already banned in other Australian states.