

2020 NT ELECTION:



Policies
2020-24

How are NT political parties committing to support a bright recreational fishing future?

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HOW ARE NT POLITICAL PARTIES COMMITTING TO SUPPORT A BRIGHT RECREATIONAL FISHING FUTURE?

WORLD-CLASS RECREATIONAL FISHING

The Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory (AFANT) is the peak body representing recreational fishers in the NT. The Northern Territory hosts a range of world-class recreational fisheries, from metre-long Barramundi caught during the post-monsoon run-off, to frenetic dry season pelagic fishing at purpose built offshore artificial reefs, we have it all. For thousands of Territorians fishing is an important part of their culture, social life, and well-being. Life in the NT is simply unimaginable without high quality fishing experiences close to home.

Our fisheries support a range of social, cultural, and economic benefits for Territory individuals, families, and businesses. In addition to the 30,000 locals who go fishing each year, the Northern Territory welcomes tens of thousands of visitors who travel to the Top End just go fishing. Sustainable, inclusive, and world-class; NT recreational fishing contributes millions of dollars to our local economy annually.

The NT's enviable position as Australia's top fishing location is not only a tourism drawcard, but a lifestyle beacon attracting people to make the NT their home. Initially supported by a healthy environment and proportionally small population, it is essential that policy-makers and those contending to lead the Territory, fully understand that a bright fishing future is far from guaranteed. Great fishing is dependent on a range of policy settings and investment decisions. These include sound and participatory fisheries management, access to fishing grounds, infrastructure development and maintenance, environmental protection, water resource governance, and sufficient funding for community groups, projects and inclusive activities.

AFANT'S ROLE AND THE ANSWERS TO OUR POLICY QUESTIONS

With thousands of members and 30,000 constituents from all walks of life, at AFANT we understand there is no "typical" recreational fisher. There are, however, a range of values and policy matters that are essential to supporting NT fisheries and to ensure high quality fishing experiences are maintained into the future. It has been our approach to put a range of questions, across 7 key policy areas to the major parties contesting the 2020 Northern Territory Election. The responses received have been collated and entered as direct quotes, written by the parties, into the tables of this document. The full responses received are available on our website, along with links to the individual party policy papers.

This process has been designed to ensure political parties are aware of and committed to the policies needed to support recreational fishing, as well as to help inform recreational fishers where each party stands on the issues important to their fishing future. We are pleased to have secured significant support for many of the key policy questions raised in the [AFANT 2020 Election Policy Questionnaire](#).

We will never tell people how to vote and we are committed to working with any future Government to ensure that our shared vision for a bright fishing future becomes a reality.

1. Fisheries Management

Great fishing depends on effective and equitable fisheries management, allocation, planning and compliance. The NT already has many well managed fisheries, with contemporary Management Frameworks (plans for the fishery) and Harvest Strategies (pre-agreed decision-rules) in place, or under development. Management Advisory Committees (MACs) with members from the recreational, commercial, fishing tourism and Indigenous sectors have been tasked with developing and recommending frameworks and strategies, as well as overseeing their implementation and review. There is, however, more work to be done to improve management and compliance, and to improve resource sharing to optimise the return to the Northern Territory community, especially through recreational fishing.

			
<p>1.1 Management Advisory Committees</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to appointing Management Advisory Committees with members from the recreational, commercial, fishing tourism and Indigenous Traditional fishing sectors to oversee the planning and implementation of all fishery Management Frameworks and Harvest Strategies?</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to maintaining a Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee?</p>	<p>Yes. Territory Labor will maintain all current management advisory committees with appropriate memberships from all stakeholder groups, to continue to oversee the planning, management and continuous improvement of fisheries management frameworks and harvest strategies.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>	<p>Territory Alliance, as a new government, would commit to ensuring that both the MACs and RFAC are run as efficiently and effectively as possible to safe guard the NTs unique and highly regarded fishery. To ensure the Committee has the greatest expertise and best representation across all sectors a new TA government would be reviewing the membership of these committees.</p>

<p>1.2 Barramundi Fishery Reform </p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to appointing a Management Advisory Committee to review the Barramundi Fishery, and to oversee the development and implementation of a new Barramundi Management Framework, and Harvest Strategy?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Territory Labor recognises that there are a number of current and emerging issues relevant to the Territory Barramundi Fishery.</p> <p>As described above, Territory Labor will continue to work with the NT Barramundi Management Advisory Committee to support a membership that reflects all stakeholders, and to oversee continuous improvement of the Barramundi Management Framework and harvest strategy to reflect the contemporary context.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Knowing the high value of the Barramundi Fishery, Territory Alliance, would commit to overseeing the development and implementation of a new Barramundi Management framework and Harvest Strategy in conjunction with the NT Fisheries department who is already tasked to ensure a sustainable fishery.</p> <p>We have an opportunity to make the NT Barramundi Fishery the world class fishing experience it once was. With recent bad wet seasons and a poorly managed commercial fishery there has been a obvious decline in the Fishery and this needs to be rectified. TA would commit to having a new strategy in place within 18mths of coming to government</p>
<p>1.3 Shoal Bay Mud Crabbing </p> <p>Q: Will your party instruct the appointment of an expert technical panel to consider the AFANT proposal to ensure equitable resource access, and allocate Shoal Bay crabbing to the recreational, Indigenous Traditional and fishing tourism sectors?</p>	<p>Territory Labor will continue to work with the NT Mud Crab Fishery Management Advisory Committee to support a membership that equitably reflects all stakeholders, and includes technical expert input from the Department of Primary Industry and Resources.</p> <p>Where a resource sharing issue is unable to resolved through the NT Mud Crab Fishery Management Advisory Committee, Territory Labor is committed to following the process described in the NT Fisheries Resource Sharing Framework, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.</p>	<p>The CLP will appoint an expert technical panel to advise government on the management of the Shoal Bay mud crab fishery.</p>	<p>An expert technical panel would not be appointed by a TA government as we have already committed to ensuring the MACs have the most appropriate people on those committees.</p> <p>A TA government would welcome the opportunity to review the proposal and consider the evidence presented to find the best solution for all sectors.</p>

<p>1.4 Research and Monitoring</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to ensuring adequate funding for NT Fisheries to conduct ongoing annual recreational fishing research at the appropriate scale, as well as a repetition of the full NT Recreational Fishing Survey to commence in 2024?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Territory Labor will continue to the support recreational fishing research, including the regular five-yearly Northern Territory Recreational Fishing Survey (which we re-established in 2018-19), that underpins government and industry understanding of and investment into our world class recreational fisheries.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>A review of the past surveys would need to be done to ensure its appropriateness and value add to the recreational fishing community before committing further funding to such activities in these economically tough times.</p> <p>In 2019-2020 a National Recreational Fishing Survey was undertaken by the Australian Government and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and the outcomes of this survey could influence on funding commitments. It would be very hard to commit to funding at the appropriate scale when that is a broad scale.</p>
<p>1.5 Fishery Closure Areas</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to ensuring a comprehensive review of the current Reef Fish Protection Areas to assess their effectiveness and need beyond 2020? Will you commit to ensuring that any future spatial closures will only be implemented if governed by predetermined research and management plans, as well as set periods for review involving key stakeholders?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>These closures were brought in by the previous CLP government and should be reviewed periodically to ensure that the methodology behind these closures is sound.</p> <p>Territory Labor will always back good fisheries management science that involves appropriate community consultation and input from stakeholders.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Territory Alliance would commit to ensuring a comprehensive review of the current Reef fish Protection areas.</p> <p>If the review finds that the spatial closures have had the expected positive impact on the fishery then our government would commit to supporting ongoing evidence based decisions.</p>

2. Recreational Fishing Infrastructure & Fishery Development

In the most recent term of Government, \$50M was pledged to support recreational fishing in the NT, with most funding allocated to delivering important infrastructure and development projects as prioritised by the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC). Key projects delivered included a new boat ramp at Shady Camp and the Territory’s largest purpose-built Artificial Reef and FAD program. Several identified projects like Point Stuart public access, a new land-based fishing platform in Darwin, and carpark improvements for the Dundee and Daly River ramps require an ongoing commitment to the announced funds, in order to ensure future delivery. Additionally, commitment to a number of existing and future infrastructure needs, including maintenance, is critical to ensure that the NT can maintain its status as the best place to fish in Australia.

			
<p>2.1 Dundee Boat Ramp </p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to investing in capital works and maintenance to ensure an optimal service level is achieved at the Dundee Boat Ramp? Will your party commit to pedestrianising the rock groyne and installing a pontoon for the safe loading and unloading of passengers, including tourists?</p>	<p>On 3 July 2020 a contract was awarded for silt removal and maintenance of the Dundee Beach Boat Ramp to ensure the best possible service level is achieved at the Dundee Beach Boat Ramp.</p> <p>Following AFANT’s request to Minister Lawler the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has been instructed to establish a Working Group, specifically to provide Government with a series of options with recommendations for short, medium and long-term actions to improve the operations at the Dundee Beach Boat ramp.</p>	<p>The CLP will ensure regular maintenance of Dundee Boat Ramp to prevent the build-up of sediment, which compromises access to this popular spot.</p> <p>We will look at long-term solutions for improving access on this ramp.</p>	<p>TA has identified the Dundee Boat Ramp as a significant site for NT and visiting recreational fishermen. We would be committed to improving the access of the boat ramp with sediment mitigation/maintenance and adding a pontoon to allow for safer boat access. Land-based fishing is another one of our priorities and would be committed to improving land based fishing activities at Dundee Beach.</p>
<p>2.2 Point Stuart </p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to realigning the road the Point Stuart boat ramp to establish to public access, as well as committing to the complete or staged upgrade of the Point Stuart Road?</p>	<p>Yes. Work has commenced to design the upgrade of Point Stuart Road to improve access to the boat ramp at Stuart’s Tree fishing camp. A staged approach to the staged upgrade of the Point Stuart Road is supported by Territory Labor, due to the benefit this project will bring to fishermen, tourists and the pastoral industry.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Territory Alliance is committed to ensuring the upgrades of the Pt Stuart Rd to One Tree Point includes the realignment and upgrades sought by AFANT.</p>

<p>2.3 Land Based Fishing </p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to developing a new safe and accessible land-based fishing platform in the Darwin region?</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to enhancing existing land-based fishing locations?</p>	<p>Yes. In a second term, Territory Labor will increase fishing access by establishing new land based fishing platforms in the Greater Darwin Region.</p> <p>Yes. The artificial reef modules used to enhance the Stokes Hill Wharf fishing locations recently are an example of how this government is enhancing land based fishing platforms.</p>	<p>The CLP will conduct a comprehensive assessment of land-based fishing access, identifying future areas for access.</p>	<p>Territory Alliance understands the need to ensure safe and accessible land based fishing platforms and will commit to the development of new and enhancement of existing locations.</p> <p>People of all abilities and backgrounds deserve the best of what the Territory has to offer in fishing experiences.</p>
<p>2.4 Artificial Reef and FAD Program</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to evaluating the recently deployed reefs and FAD's with a view to maintaining and expanding the program if it is shown to be successful?</p>	<p>Yes. This Territory Labor Government has funded a research and evaluation program on artificial reefs installed over the past year.</p> <p>This is important to understanding the way the reefs work, and evaluating what they contribute to our fisheries and fishing opportunities, to inform future planning.</p>	<p>The CLP will review, and explore, expansion of the artificial reef and Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) program.</p>	<p>TA would be supportive of continuing the Artificial reef and FAD program if it is shown to be successful.</p> <p>The evaluation of the recently deployed reefs will be important in showing any success or detriment of the reefs and FADs and would be supported by a TA government to ensure appropriate expenditure of government funds.</p>
<p>2.5 Fish Stocking</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to continuing the Barramundi stocking program, including at new locations should they be identified as suitable?</p>	<p>Yes. This government has a proud history of stocking the residential lakes at Palmerston with Barramundi fingerlings and providing fishing opportunities at Manton Dam for Territorians.</p> <p>There have been some delays this year, with weed affecting water quality in some lakes. However, the program is continuing.</p>	<p>The CLP will continue barramundi stocking programs and explore the feasibility of expansion.</p>	<p>Yes, we would work closely with organisations such as yourselves to get the best outcomes for Territorians who love fishing and may be restricted in where they can fish.</p>

3. Recreational Fishing Sector & Community Support

The Northern Territory recreational fishing community is rich, diverse, and inclusive. From Katherine to King Ash Bay, from Groote Eylandt to Dundee, and everywhere in between, Territorians are proudly committed to their fishing clubs. Clubs are more than just a place to talk fishing or to compete, they are place of social support and one of the best ways for new residents and novice fishers to learn from the Top End’s best fishers. In addition, thousands of club members, individual members and the broader fishing community are represented by us, the Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the NT. It is our role to ensure that the recreational fishing sector is professionally represented in fisheries management, and that our community has the capacity to have meaningful input across the range of policies, developments and issues that impact on fishing. Despite the thousands of volunteer hours annually, at our clubs and associations, some Government support is critical to the health and capacity of our vibrant community.

			
<p>3.1 AFANT Funding for Representation and Citizen Science </p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to increasing AFANT’s core funding for professional participation in fisheries management, sector representation and coordination of citizen science programs by at least the 23% that has been eroded by CPI?</p>	<p>Territory Labor will continue AFANT’s core funding.</p> <p>However, the national and global impact of the coronavirus crisis – which is resulting in the biggest economic downturn in nearly 100 years – will mean the budget position looking forward will be challenging.</p>	<p>The CLP will adjust AFANT’s funding in line with inflation.</p>	<p>TA will commit to continue funding AFANT. To commit to anything greater would be irresponsible of any government at this stage given the uncertainty of the NT budget position and the future outlook.</p>
<p>3.2 NT Recreational Fishing Grants Program </p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to continuing the NT Recreational Fishing Grants program over the next four years? If so, how much annual funding will you allocate? And will you commit to including AFANT in a review of the current guidelines?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Territory Labor will commit to continuing the NT Recreational Fishing Grants program over the next four years. And Territory Labor agrees that it is timely to work with AFANT to review and update the program guidelines, to best meet the needs of the community and to derive the greatest value from the program.</p>	<p>The CLP will continue the NT Recreational Fishing Grants program.</p>	<p>TA understands the importance of the recreational fishing sector and would support ongoing funding over the next four years.</p> <p>Yes, we would commit to having all relevant stakeholders included in a review of the current programs.</p>

4. Access to Fishing Locations

While the Northern Territory can proudly boast some of the best fishing in the country, access to many prime coastal and inland fishing locations is less developed and considerably more tenuous than enjoyed by fishers in the rest of Australia. Uncertainty over access relates to several key factors, including a comparatively small number of accessible coastal towns or cities outside of Darwin. This is compounded by there being few working examples of public access routes being registered in accordance with *Pastoral Land Act*. Perhaps most significantly, there has also been failure to reach agreements with the Traditional Owners of many NT waters since the 2008 Blue Mud Bay decision of the High Court.

AFANT supports the formal recognition of Traditional Ownership in accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act*. We believe there are considerable unexplored opportunities for fishers and Traditional Owners to mutually benefit from agreed certainty of access. While long-term fishing access agreements covering several of the NT's most socially significant waters have been negotiated between the NTG and Traditional Owners, improving access to private and Aboriginal lands and waters remains a key priority for the recreational fishing sector.

			
<p>4.1 Long Term Access for Recreational Fishing to Aboriginal Owned Waters </p> <p>Will your party commit to ensuring that long term access agreements are put before Traditional Owners (in accordance with due statutory processes) for consideration?</p> <p>And that the benefits offered by the NTG in exchange for the agreements will be reviewed for adequacy, and be improved if necessary?</p>	<p>Yes. The Territory Labor Government respects the Blue Mud Bay decision of the High Court, and in this term of government has signed a Heads of Agreement with the Northern, Tiwi and Anindilyakwa Land Councils that demonstrates a willingness to resolve access arrangements. That is a very significant step forward.</p> <p>In a second term, Territory Labor will continue to work in good faith with the Land Councils and all stakeholders, to find solutions that provide certainty for our commercial and recreational fishing industries, while supporting the aspirations of Traditional Owners.</p>	<p>The CLP commits to facilitating access agreements between recreational fishers and Traditional Owners.</p>	<p>TA will work closely with all stakeholders to ensure the best outcomes for Aboriginal Land owners and fishermen. We will work collaboratively to reach these outcomes.</p>

<p>4.2 Support for Access Across Pastoral Land</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to supporting AFANT and relevant pastoralists to investigate, negotiate and develop suitable access routes in accordance with the NT Pastoral Land Act, including through a fund to support essential infrastructure at priority locations?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Territory Labor will continue to support AFANT to engage with pastoralists, Traditional Owners and all stakeholders, through the Recreational Fishing Access Working Group, to develop and agree access routes in accordance with the NT Pastoral land Act. Funding proposals will be considered on submission, through available funding avenues.</p>	<p>The CLP, commits to facilitate access agreements between recreational fishers and pastoralists.</p>	<p>TA would be supportive of reviewing the issues and working towards solutions with the interested parties.</p> <p>Any funding required for essential infrastructure would be considered on case by case basis.</p>
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5. Water Management, Planning & Governance

Many of the Northern Territory's most important recreational fisheries are dependent on the sustainable management of community-owned surface and groundwater resources. Iconic barramundi fisheries within the Daly, Roper, Mary and Adelaide river catchments, and the foodwebs that support them, are vulnerable to the overuse of groundwater. Potential disruption to ecosystem connectivity through the building of dams, especially on-stream dams, remains a constant threat to key fisheries and must be mitigated through careful and considered planning.

It is understood that the future water needs for Darwin, the Darwin Rural Area and agricultural/horticultural industries will likely require the development of water resources, including improved storage. However, it is essential that ill-informed, often unsolicited proposals from southern state politicians are rebuffed in favour of community-informed policy that recognises and prioritises environmental needs and seeks to ensure optimal social and economic benefit while causing minimal environmental impact.

			
<p>5.1 Community Participation in Water Planning</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to ensuring that Water Allocation Plans are overseen by Water Advisory Committees comprised of community, industry, and environmental stakeholder representatives?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Territory Labor Government re-established water advisory committees to ensure water allocation and management meets community expectations. These committees have contributed to the development of several water allocation plans, developed through technical and scientific assessments, and extensive community participation and consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>Territory Labor will continue to ensure that Water Allocation Plans are developed by Water Advisory Committees comprised of community, industry, and environmental stakeholder representatives, and look forward to continuing to work with AFANT on this important work.</p>	<p>The CLP is committed to keeping Water Advisory Committees in place.</p>	<p>Please see our Water Policy https://www.territory-alliance.org/water-security</p> <p>AFANT NOTE: The policy online as of August 7, 2020 does not mention Water Allocation Plans or Water Advisory Committees</p>

<p>5.2 Precautionary Water Planning and Funding for Research</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to maintaining the “80/20 Rule” for the management of rivers and aquifers, in water allocation planning in the Top End?</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to completing the relevant research required to set an Estimated Sustainable Yield for the Katherine Aquifer that is based upon research into the environmental needs prior to the review of the plan scheduled to commence in 2023?</p>	<p>Yes. Labor will continue to implement the ‘80:20’ Rule for rivers and aquifers as outlined in the Northern Territory Water Allocation Planning Framework.</p> <p>Yes. In 2019, the Territory Labor Government released the ‘Katherine Tindall Limestone Aquifer Water Allocation Plan’, developed in consultation with the Katherine Water Advisory Committee. We will continue to implement the Plan, which will include defining the non-consumptive (environmental and cultural) water requirements for the system. This will assist to establish a new estimated sustainable yield for the next Katherine water allocation plan.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes, if possible</p>	<p>Please see our Water Policy https://www.territory-alliance.org/water-security</p> <p>AFANT NOTE: The policy online as of August 7, 2020 does not mention precautionary water planning, the “80/20 rule” or research to determine the environmental needs of the Katherine river.</p>
<p>5.3 Best Practice Water Infrastructure Development </p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to excluding the possibility of damming the NT’s iconic free flowing rivers?</p>	<p>Yes. Territory Labor Government understand that water is a precious resource and we need to ensure that our rivers continue to flow for the health and sustainability of our environment and wildlife.</p>	<p>The CLP will await the recommendations of the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Business Case Project. The CLP's preference is for offstream storage.</p>	<p>Please see our Water Policy https://www.territory-alliance.org/water-security</p> <p>AFANT NOTE: The policy online as of August 7, 2020 does not contain a commitment not to dam free flowing rivers.</p>

<p>Q: Will your party commit to formal water infrastructure planning, including off-stream storage, aquifer recharge and other options (such as allowing recreational fishing in dams) that optimise economic return, while minimising environmental, social and cultural impacts?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Territory Labor know that the sustainable use of the Territory’s water resources are crucial for the health of our rivers, aquifers and water-dependant ecosystems. We have passed key 6 legislative reforms and done a lot of work to strike a balance between environmental protection and supporting economic growth.</p> <p>Our Strategic Water Plan ensures we plan for future demands and changes to water availability, to secure our natural assets and provide a strong economy for future generations.</p> <p>Territory Labor will continue to invest more on water infrastructure and work with communities to make sure water is used wisely. (word limit)</p>	<p>Yes (Q2)</p>	<p>AFANT NOTE: The policy online as of August 7, 2020 commits to improved water filtration to facilitate the continued use of Manton Dam as a recreational zone once it is brought online for water supply.</p>
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6. Environmental Protection & Management

The Top End’s status as Australia’s best place to fish is underpinned by the NT’s abundant and intact ecosystems. A bright fishing future and continued Top End way of life is reliant upon economic development that respects, maintains, and even enhances our celebrated natural values. Recent environmental reforms and the recommendations of the Pepper Inquiry have heralded a more robust regulatory and compliance landscape for a range of industries and future projects. While there is always talk about “cutting red and green tape”, streamlining processes must not be code for weakening essential environmental protections, especially those that have been recently reformed in line with best practice. An ongoing commitment to strengthening environmental protection, while maintaining participatory, risk-based management is important to ensure our environment can continue to support exceptional social, cultural and economic values.

			
<p>6.1 Support for all 135 Recommendations of Pepper Fracking Inquiry </p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to implementing <u>all</u> 135 recommendations of the Pepper Inquiry?</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to ensuring the CBRG (or a similar group) remains tasked with overseeing the execution of the Implementation Plan?</p>	<p>Yes. The Territory Labor Government accepted and is implementing all 135 recommendations of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Yes. The Community and Business Reference Group has been, and will continue, to oversee the implementation of the 135 recommendations of the Inquiry under a re-elected Labor Government.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The CLP will review this in government.</p>	<p>Please refer to our No Fracking Policy Position Paper at www.territoryalliance.org</p>

<p>6.2 A Threat and Risk Based Approach to Marine Parks; No Lock-Outs </p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to maintaining a no lock-out, threat and risk-based approach to marine park management, including for any new Territory marine parks?</p>	<p>Yes. The Limmen Bight Marine Park Plan of Management delivers on a Territory Labor Government election commitment and represents a milestone in marine and coastal management across the Territory.</p> <p>The Plan will ensure better management and protection of the marine park and its unique marine wildlife, while supporting Aboriginal economic development and allowing for other activities like recreational fishing and nature-based tourism.</p> <p>Our parks and reserves are one of our greatest assets. We will continue to work with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders, including recreational fishers and the tourism industry, to ensure they can be accessed and enjoyed by all user groups, while ensuring their cultural and natural values are maintained and safeguarded.</p>	<p>Yes, The CLP will guarantee that recreational fishers will never be "locked-out" of marine parks in the Northern Territory.</p>	<p>Territory Alliance recognises the critical importance of protecting our Top End coasts and our coastal waters for conservation, recreational and commercial interests alike.</p> <p>Territory Alliance also recognises the fact that NT coasts provide around \$2billion into our economy and support more than 6,000 jobs.</p> <p>Bearing the importance of our coastal waters in mind, Territory Alliance has given a firm commitment that, in government, it will allocate the necessary funding to ensure the full implementation of the NT Coastal and Marine Management Plan.</p>
<p>6.3 A Middle Arm Industrial Precinct Masterplan</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to establishing a Middle Arm Precinct Master Plan to guide sustainable development, and will you include community participation in the planning process??</p>	<p>A strategic development plan of the Middle Arm Precinct has been developed outlining areas for gas related industry and downstream processing, minerals processing, product and rail corridors, commercial and conservation land. A development permit was issued to Land Development Corporation in late 2019 with Stage 1 works of the Kittyhawk Estate to consist of three new titled lots by early 2021.</p> <p>Territory Labor will ensure the sustainable development of the precinct, and the community will have the opportunity to provide feedback through statutory development consent and environment approval processes, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>TA understands the need for a Middle Arm Precinct Master Plan.</p>

<p>6.4 A Continued Moratorium on Seabed Mining</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to maintaining a moratorium, or implementing a total ban on seabed mining?</p>	<p>In 2012, the Territory Government introduced a moratorium on seabed mining, which was to remain in place until a review into actual and potential impacts could be completed. That moratorium has been extended twice, pending the outcome of the review by the Northern Territory Environment Protection Agency (EPA). It is anticipated that a draft review report will be released by the EPA for public consultation later this year, and following that consultation, the EPA will provide its independent advice to Government.</p> <p>Labor will listen to the science to ensure our environment, coasts and marine life are protected, and will make a decision (word limit)</p>	<p>Yes. The CLP will extend the moratorium on seabed mining in the Northern Territory until the EPA has completed its study and made recommendations in the practice.</p>	<p>TA supports the moratorium on seabed mining and will not proceed without understanding the results of consultation and any environment impact.</p>
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7. Recreational Fishing Future Promotion & Planning

The Fishery Status Report 2012 estimated the fishing tourism industry's economic contribution was \$26 million per annum, with approximately 80% of this attributable to interstate or overseas visitors. The fishing destination market is a competitive place and fishers are increasingly finding out about the best trending fishing experiences from other fishers, as well as through social and online media. It is essential that we promote our high-quality barramundi fisheries, including the current management regime, through improved and genuine branding. There are also emerging opportunities to incorporate the NT's new artificial reef fisheries, our expanding Marlin and Sailfish fisheries, and the Million Dollar Fish competition into future management-based marketing campaigns. The current NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan comes to an end this year, and it will be essential that future development is guided by a new set of clear objectives, strategies, and actions.

			
<p>7.1 Million Dollar Fish</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to supporting the Million Dollar Fish competition into the future, including additional funding for NT Fisheries to assist with fish tagging if required?</p>	<p>Yes. The Million Dollar Fish competition is a popular and valued Territory event, for locals and tourists alike, and Territory Labor looks forward to seeing more winning catches.</p> <p>This year, the event will be managed through the NT Major Events Company, taking advantage of their experience and event successes.</p> <p>Since travel restrictions relating to the coronavirus pandemic have affected some of the resources usually involved in fish tagging, NT Fisheries will provide additional assistance this year, with funding coming from within the event budget.</p>	<p>The CLP will continue to support the Million Dollar Fish competition, originally a CLP initiative.</p>	<p>The Million dollar fish competition will have the ongoing support of a Territory Alliance government. NT Fisheries funding would be a matter for the government and the department.</p>

<p>7.2 World Class Fishery Promotion</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to investing in the improved promotion of recreational fishing in the NT; including by working with AFANT and the NTGFIA on better ways to brand our unique Barramundi management zones, and emerging fisheries?</p>	<p>Yes. Territory Labor looks forward to continuing to work with AFANT and NTGFIA to promote sustainable, inclusive and exciting new recreational fishing opportunities in the Territory.</p> <p>It will certainly be worthwhile to explore better ways to brand our unique Barramundi, and also to showcase new and emerging fisheries such as the feisty catfish and flathead that are so well recognised elsewhere, but yet to be heralded here. Territory Labor looks forward to working with fishing enthusiasts to promote world class fishing in the Territory.</p>	<p>The CLP will promote fishing tourism.</p>	<p>We appreciate the uniqueness of the Territory and would work closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure we can promote our wonderful fishery to encourage visitors from far and wide.</p>
<p>7.3 NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan</p> <p>Q: Will your party commit to investing in a suitable process to capture community and industry input to guide a new 3-5 year NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan?</p>	<p>No response received</p>	<p>No response received</p>	<p>Territory Alliance wants to learn from past mistakes and see the NT move forward in a positive direction. We would commit to a collaborative working arrangement to produce a new NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan.</p>