



## LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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Mr David Ciaravolo  
Chief Executive Officer  
AFANT  
Via email: ceo@afant.com.au

Dear Mr Ciaravolo,

### **Re: 2020 NT Election Recreational Fishing Policy Questionnaire**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to AFANT's 2020 NT election questionnaire.

Please find our response attached to this letter. We look forward to the prospect of implementing these policies with your support should we be successful at the election.

Yours sincerely,

Lia Finocchiaro  
**Leader of the Opposition**

6 August 2020

### 1.1 Management Advisory Committees

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?

**Yes**

Q: Will your party commit to maintaining a Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee? **Yes**

### 1.2 Barramundi Fishery Reform

Q: Will your party commit to appointing a Management Advisory Committee (with members from the recreational, commercial, fishing tourism and Indigenous Traditional fishing sectors ) to review the Barramundi Fishery, and to oversee the development and implementation of a new Barramundi Management Framework, and Harvest Strategy (as described above)? **Yes**

### 1.3 Shoal Bay Mud Crabbing

Q: Will your party instruct the appointment of an expert technical panel to consider the AFANT proposal to ensure equitable resource access, by allocating Shoal Bay crabbing to the recreational, Indigenous Traditional and fishing tourism sectors? **The CLP will appoint an expert technical panel to advise government on the management of the Shoal Bay mud crab fishery.**

### 1.4 Research and Monitoring

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? **Yes.**

### 1.5 Fishery Closure Areas

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? **Yes.**

### 2.1 Dundee Boat Ramp

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? **The CLP will ensure regular maintenance of Dundee Boat Ramp to prevent the build-up of sediment, which compromises access to this popular spot. We will look to long-term solutions for improving access on this ramp.**

### 2.2 Point Stuart

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? **Yes.**

### 2.3 Land Based Fishing

Q: Will your party commit to developing a new safe and accessible land-based fishing platform in the Darwin region? **The CLP will conduct a comprehensive assessment of land-based fishing access, identifying future areas for access.**

Q: Will your party commit to enhancing existing land-based fishing locations? **The CLP will conduct a comprehensive assessment of land-based fishing access, identifying future areas for access.**

#### **2.4 Artificial Reef and FAD Program**

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? **The CLP will review, and explore, expansion of the artificial reef and Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) program.**

#### **2.5 Fish Stocking**

Q: Will your party commit to continuing the Barramundi stocking program, including at new locations should they be identified as suitable? **The CLP will continue barramundi stocking programs and explore the feasibility of expansion.**

#### **3.1 AFANT Funding for Representation and Citizen Science**

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? **The CLP will adjust AFANT's funding in line with inflation.**

#### **3.2 NT Recreational Fishing Grants Program**

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 program to ensure guidelines are optimised to meet community need and to provide value? **The CLP will continue the NT Recreational Fishing Grants program.**

#### **4.1 Long Term Access for Recreational Fishing to Aboriginal Owned Waters**

Will your party commit to ensuring that long term access agreements are put before Traditional Owners (in accordance with due statutory processes) for consideration? And that the benefits offered by the NTG in exchange for the agreements will be reviewed for adequacy, and be improved if necessary? **The CLP commits to facilitating access agreements between recreational fishers and Traditional Owners.**

#### **4.2 Support for Access Across Pastoral Land**

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? **The CLP commits to facilitate access agreements between recreational fishers and pastoralists.**

#### **5.1 Community Participation in Water Planning**

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?

**The CLP is committed to keeping Water Advisory Committees in place.**

## **5.2 Precautionary Water Planning and Funding for Research**

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? **Yes.**

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? **Yes, if possible.**

## **5.3 Best Practice Water Infrastructure Development**

Q: Will your party commit to excluding the possibility of damming the NT’s iconic free flowing rivers? **The CLP will await the recommendations of the Commonwealth’s Water Infrastructure Business Case Project. The CLP’s preference is for off-stream storage.**

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? **Yes.**

## **6.1 Support for all 135 Recommendations of Pepper Fracking Inquiry**

Q: Will your party commit to implementing all 135 recommendations of the Pepper Inquiry? **Yes.**

Q: Will your party commit to ensuring the CBRG (or a similar group) remains tasked with overseeing the execution of the Implementation Plan? **The CLP will review this in government.**

## **6.2 A Threat and Risk Based Approach to Marine Parks; No Lock-Outs**

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? **Yes. The CLP will guarantee that recreational fishers will never be ‘locked-out’ of marine parks in the Northern Territory.**

## **6.3 A Middle Arm Industrial Precinct Masterplan**

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? **Yes.**

## **6.4 A Continued Moratorium on Seabed Mining**

Q: Will your party commit to maintaining a moratorium, or implementing a total ban on seabed mining? **Yes. The CLP will extend the moratorium on seabed mining in the Northern Territory until the EPA has completed its study and made recommendations into the practice.**

## **7.1 Million Dollar Fish**

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? **The CLP will continue to support the Million Dollar Fish competition, originally a CLP initiative.**

## 7.2 World Class Fishery Promotion

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? **The CLP will promote fishing tourism.**