

Territory Alliance response to AFANT

1. Fisheries Management

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?

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

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.

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?

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. 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.

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?

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. A TA government would welcome the opportunity to review the proposal and consider the evidence presented to find the best solution for all sectors.

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?

A review of the past surveys would need to be done to ensure it's appropriateness and value add to the recreational fishing community before committing further funding to such activities in these economically tough times. 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 to commit to funding at the appropriate scale when that is a broad scale.

1.5 Fishery Closure Areas

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?

Territory Alliance would commit to ensuring a comprehensive review of the current Reef fish Protection areas. 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.

2 Recreational Fishing Infrastructure and Fishery Development

2.1 Dundee Boat Ramp

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?

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.

2.2 Point Stuart

Q: Will your party commit to realigning the road to the Point Stuart boat ramp to establish public access, as well as committing to the complete or staged upgrade of the Point Stuart Road?

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

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?

Q: Will your party commit to enhancing existing land-based fishing locations?

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. People of all abilities and backgrounds deserve the best of what the Territory has to offer in fishing experiences.

2.4 Artificial reef and FAD program

Q: Will your party commit to evaluating the recently deployed reefs and FADs with a view to maintaining and expanding the program if it is shown to be successful?

TA would be supportive of continuing the Artificial reef and FAD program if it is shown to be successful. 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.

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?

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.

3. Recreational Fishing Sector and Community Support

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 23% that has been eroded by CPI?

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.

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?

TA understands the importance of the recreational fishing sector and would support ongoing funding over the next four years. Yes, we would commit to having all relevant stakeholders included in a review of the current programs.

4. Access to Fishing Locations

4.1 Long term access for recreational fishing to Aboriginal Owned Waters

Q: 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?

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.

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?

TA would be supportive of reviewing the issues and working towards solutions with the interested parties. Any funding required for essential infrastructure would be considered on case by case basis.

5. Water management, Planning and Governance

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?

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?

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?

5.3 Best Practice Water Infrastructure Development

Q: Will your party commit to excluding the possibility of damming the NTs iconic free flowing rivers?

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?

Please see our Water Policy <https://www.territory-alliance.org/water-security>

6. Environmental Protection and Management

6.1 Support for all all 135 Recommendations of Pepper Fracking Inquiry

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

Q: Will your party commit to ensuring the CBRG (or a similar group) remains tasked with overseeing the execution of the Implementation Plan?

Please refer to our No Fracking Policy Position Paper at www.territoryalliance.org

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?

Territory Alliance recognises the critical importance of protecting our Top End coasts and our coastal waters for conservation, recreational and commercial interests alike.

Territory Alliance also recognises the fact that NT coasts provide around \$2billion into our economy and support more than 6,000 jobs.

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.

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? TA understands the need for a Middle Arm Precinct Master Plan.

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? TA supports the moratorium on seabed mining and will not proceed without understanding the results of consultation and any environment impact.

7. Recreational Fishing Future Promotion & Planning

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 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.

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?

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.

7.3 NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan

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?

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.

Kind regards, Delia

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Supplementary information received from Territory Alliance on August 11, 2020, via email to ceo@afant.com.au :

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