

NT Greens Answers to AFANT Election Questionnaire

The NT Greens recognise recreational fishing as an integral part of the Territory lifestyle. Supporting recreational fishing means supporting a healthy environment and vice versa. The NT Greens are strong advocates for the protection of the Territory's iconic natural places, and oppose damming our mighty free-flowing rivers and mining our seabeds. We tirelessly campaign against threats to spots beloved by fishos, including Darwin Harbour and Elizabeth River, at risk from the NT Government's proposed Middle Arm Industrial Development. The NT Greens support sustainable, long-term planning and development informed by broad and meaningful consultation with Traditional Owners and relevant stakeholders, including the recreational fishing community.

NT Barramundi Fishery Reform

The NT Greens support the phase out of gillnetting for barramundi.

Fisheries Management

The NT Greens support Management Advisory Committees with a broad range of stakeholders represented, and support maintaining a Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee.

Research and monitoring

The NT Greens support adequate funding for the recreational fishing sector to conduct the NT-wide Recreational Fishing Survey.

Investing in behaviour change

Yes, the NT Greens support behaviour change campaigns that work to ensure more sustainable fishing practices across the Territory.

Fisheries Policy & NT Fisheries Act review

The NT Greens support the development of a fisheries policy based on scientific evidence and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Fisheries compliance

The NT Greens are supportive of maintaining a dedicated compliance unit within NT Fisheries that is adequately resourced.

Recreational fishing infrastructure and fishery development

The NT Greens supports long-term planning and development of recreational fishing infrastructure based on consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Land-based fishing

In principle, the NT Greens support the development of infrastructure for land-based fishing across the Territory, however the precise locations of any jetties or platforms must be based on thorough consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Traditional Owners and local residents.

Upgrades at boat ramps

The NT Greens supports the provisioning of high-quality public infrastructure, including adequate funding for upgrades at boat ramps.

Key infrastructure – a Darwin Region Fishing Strategy and NT Regional Recreational and Tourism Fishing Development Strategy

The NT Greens support bringing relevant stakeholders together, including AFANT, NTGFIA and RFAC to develop Recreational Fishing Strategies for Darwin and the regional areas.

Recreational fishing sector & community Support

The NT Greens support ongoing funding for the recreational fishing sector, including the NT Recreational Fishing Grants program and recognise the importance of consulting key groups like AFANT and RFAC in this process.

Water management, planning & governance

The NT Greens support Water Advisory Committees composed of relevant stakeholders; however, more broadly, the NT Greens are supportive of reform of the Territory's water laws in order to avoid overallocation. Currently, the Water Act and water plans are unable to protect the Territory's rivers or groundwater dependent waterholes, trees and soaks - despite ninety percent of the Territory's water supply coming from groundwater. We urgently need new protections to safeguard the Territory's free flowing rivers and groundwater systems. These systems are the lifeblood of the Territory's iconic environment and support local communities and economies. We need to empower affected communities to participate in decision-making about water management. This requires sound governance, genuine consultation, community participation, robust water plans and long-term collaboration.

Water Allocation Plans must be based on the best science and provide secure outcomes for the environment and other water users including recreational fishers. Plans must contain a

solid scientific basis for the calculation of the estimated sustainable yield consistent with the Northern Territory's National Water obligations.

Water infrastructure development

The NT Greens are opposed to the damming of the NT's iconic, free-flowing rivers.

Environmental protection, management, & NT Parks

The NT Greens support the development of marine parks based on scientific evidence and consultation with relevant stakeholders including Traditional Owners and the communities who utilise these areas.

Casuarina Coastal Reserve

The NT Greens support the current fishing access and activities within the Casuarina Coastal National Park, and support investigating the acquisition of Defence land to incorporate the Buffalo Creek Management Area into the new Casuarina National Park.

Middle Arm Industrial Precinct

The NT Greens are opposed to the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct, one reason for this opposition being the potential impact of the project on recreational activities in Darwin Harbour, including loss of access to popular fishing spots. The NT Greens' position is that the development should not go ahead. In the case that it does, the most stringent requirements and offsets must be imposed on the proponent to mitigate cultural, environmental, health, and social impacts, including those on recreational fishing.

Seabed mining prohibition

The NT Greens oppose seabed mining and fully support maintaining a regulatory prohibition on seabed mining in the NT.