

LABOR'S PLAN FOR RECREATIONAL FISHING



POLICY POSITION PAPER

OUR PLAN

Labor will continue to invest in recreational fishing infrastructure to enhance lifestyle opportunities for Territorians.

We will increase access for recreational fishing and fishing tourism opportunities in remote areas - providing employment for local people, ranger groups and economic opportunities for Traditional Owners - while safe guarding the Territory's cultural heritage and values.



OUR PLAN

We will:

- Continue the popular Recreational Fishing Small Grants Scheme which will offer grant funding to eligible organisations for projects and activities that directly improve recreational fishing experiences and opportunities in the Territory.
- Continue the Darwin Region Fish Stocking Program to stock Manton Dam and selected residential lakes in the Greater Darwin Region, including Palmerston, with Barramundi.
- Continue work to improve boat ramp and car parking at Dundee and the Daly.
- Open up fishing opportunities at Point Stuart by improving the road, boat ramp, car park and amenities.
- Continue to invest in boat ramp, boat launching and boat washing infrastructure in locations across the Top End including:
 - Channel Island
 - Saltwater Arm
 - Darwin Harbour
 - Nightcliff
 - Howard River
 - Mandorah
- Increase fishing access by establishing new land-based fishing platforms in the Greater Darwin Region. Potential sites could include:
 - East Point
 - Cullen Bay
 - Mandorah

OUR PLAN

- Establish a floating platform in Darwin Harbour.
- Facilitate the establishment of agreements with pastoralists to create agreed access routes to permanent water for recreational fishing on pastoral land.
- Explore opportunities to increase recreational fishing in Northern Territory National Parks.
- Continue to fund the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT (AFANT) and resource the Recreational Fishing Ministerial Advisory Council to provide advice on the direction and implementation of recreational fishing policy, including the funding of recreational fishing infrastructure requirements.
- Continue to work with Aboriginal Land Councils, Aboriginal communities and Ranger Groups to develop opportunities for Aboriginal enterprise in recreational fishing.
- Establish an infrastructure grants program to encourage the development of fishing tourism in remote communities.



OUR PLAN

- Invest in fishing and maritime education and training programs, such as boat safety, coxswains courses and boat design and building.
- Continue to support the Million Dollar Fish and the great array of fishing competitions held across the Top End.
- Work to capture more of the international fishing competition market by establishing new competitions that showcase the feisty catfish and flathead that are so well recognised elsewhere, and yet to be heralded here.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

With access to some of the world's most beautiful river systems and 11,000 kilometres of pristine coastline, as well as many of Australia's most sought after fish species to chase, the Territory offers a fishing experience for everyone - locals and visitors alike.

- Secured recreational fishing access to Aboriginal-owned coastal waters until at least 2022, under a new agreement between the Northern Territory Government, the Northern Land Council and Traditional Owners.
- We have invested more than \$20 million in recreational fishing grants and infrastructure.
- Completed the Shady Camp Boat Ramp, and upgraded the Corroboree Billabong Road and Nhulunbuy Mud Wharf and Boat Ramp.
- Established Artificial Reefs to create new opportunities using local innovation and new technologies.
- Improvements at Dinah Beach, Manton Dam and Middle Arm and awarded small grants that enabled programs like the Buddy Boats and supported small, local fishing clubs.
- \$30 million investment into fishing infrastructure will continue under a Territory Labor Government.
- Continue to progress our initial RecFishing Futures Program, and bring new initiatives to it, working in partnership with AFANT, recreational fishing clubs and all Territorians to continue to make our fishing and fishing tourism opportunities the best in the country.

THE ALTERNATIVE

The Territory Labor Government has made great progress in implementing our Sustainable Water Use policy and fixing up the disgraceful mess that Terry Mills and the CLP left after their term in Government.

During the last term of the CLP Government, the Territory's water reserves were over allocated and the Aboriginal Water Reserves Policy was scrapped.

Their reckless approach will place our water resources - and recreational fishing - at risk.

