

# LABOR'S PLAN FOR **INVESTING IN ABORIGINAL RANGERS**



POLICY POSITION PAPER

## OUR PLAN

**Labor will continue to support Aboriginal Territorians to protect their ancestral lands and seas, unlock its economic and social potential and create jobs on country.**

The Territory's natural environment is one of our greatest assets. Territory Labor understand that a healthy environment creates ongoing permanent jobs.

The conservation of our land and sea country is crucial for the health and wellbeing of our people and future generations and to provide employment and economic opportunities for local communities.





## OUR PLAN

**We will continue to fund capital grants and land management and conservation grants for Aboriginal Ranger Groups and Aboriginal organisations.**

- Grants will help ensure rangers have the equipment, infrastructure and operational capacity to work on country and achieve meaningful conservation, economic and social outcomes.
- Conservation activities may include feral animal and pest plant control; soil conservation; cultural heritage recording and protection; biodiversity and species monitoring; and managed burns.
- Expand the scope of the grants to enable funding to be used for community engagement activities to support the conservation of lands and seas, including education, training and support for disaster recovery.



# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

More than 50% of land in the Territory and about 85% of the coastline is Aboriginal owned or managed. There are around 1000 Aboriginal Rangers that operate across 46 established Aboriginal Ranger groups; protecting 460,000 square kilometres of land and undertaking invaluable work. Ranger programs deliver fire, weed and feral animal management and promote and protect cultural resource knowledge.

To date, the Territory Labor Government has:

- Established an Aboriginal Land Management Advisory Group as the primary source of advice for grant recipients.
- Delivered on our \$12 million Aboriginal Ranger grant programs, providing funding for equipment, infrastructure and on-ground land management activities, including grants for:
  - One-off purchases of up to \$100,000 for essential equipment or other capital items; and
  - Land management and conservation to support projects that improve and develop conservation practices on Aboriginal land.

The latest round of grants will be awarded in August 2020.

- Increased powers for Aboriginal Rangers to manage and protect their land with amendments to the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976. A governance framework will be established to support the new provisions, with work already underway, to ensure Aboriginal Rangers are able to access the training and capability development they need to take on the new powers.
- Developed the NT Aboriginal Carbon Industry Strategy to support land management and economic development on Aboriginal land and approaches to supporting greenhouse gas emissions abatement and carbon sequestration activities.



# THE ALTERNATIVE

In July 2016, Gary Higgins said that granting powers to Aboriginal rangers to help deal with people illegally on lands and waters was “purely a political stunt” by Labor.

The CLP does not recognise the importance of the environment.

If given the chance, Terry Mills and the CLP would once again risk serious damage to our valuable natural environment, opening the Territory up for a free-for-all on our environment.

Territory Labor is investing in more Aboriginal Rangers to deliver local jobs on country, growing our economy across the Territory and improving environmental outcomes.

