
MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate circulation

Territory will be an exciting recreational fishing paradise under Country Liberal Government

The Northern Territory is a recreational fishing paradise for both local anglers and visitors who dream of landing a big barra or beautiful reef fish. Recreational fishing will only get better under a new Country Liberal Government, with our plan to safeguard and enhance recreational fishing in the Territory, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

A Country Liberal Government will:

- Fast-track the realignment and upgrade of Point Stuart Road to allow better access to the boat ramp, aiding in the growth of fishing tourism in the area.
- Keep the system of Management Advisory Committees (MACs) and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) in place.
- Review the Reef Fish Protection Areas.
- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of land-based fishing access, identifying future areas for access.
- Explore the possibility of expanding the artificial reef and Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) program.
- Appoint an expert technical panel to advise government on the management of the Shoal Bay mud crab fishery.
- Conduct Recreational Fishing Surveys every five years to inform policy development.
- Ensure regular maintenance of Dundee Boat Ramp to prevent the build-up of sediment, which compromises access to this popular spot.
- Continue barramundi stocking programs and explore the feasibility of expansion.
- Adjust AFANT's funding in line with inflation.
- Implement all 135 of the Pepper Inquiry recommendations.
- Guarantee that recreational fishers will never be 'locked-out' of marine parks in the Northern Territory.
- Extend the moratorium on seabed mining in the Northern Territory until the EPA has completed its study and made recommendations into the practice.
- Continue to support the Million Dollar Fish competition, originally a CLP initiative.
- Promote fishing tourism.
- Never introduce boat licencing or a blood-alcohol limit on boat operators.

"The Country Liberal Party has always supported recreational fishing in the Territory, stocking lakes for recreational fishing, marine parks, quality boat ramps and land based infrastructure, access roads and the Million Dollar Fish competition.

Leader of the Opposition
LIA FINOCCHIARO MLA

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“We are totally committed to ensuring recreational fishing remains the quintessential Territory pastime for local anglers and keen visitors and recognise its role in our economy,” Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

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