Our Plan for the Northern Territory Election 2020
I am pleased to introduce the Country Liberal Party's vision for the 2020 Northern Territory election.

As the election campaign progresses, my CLP team will release detailed policies based upon its vision to drive job creation, tackle crime to make our community safe, and use our economic strengths to create opportunities for Territorians.

In this election, Territorians can vote for a Country Liberal Government that has the vision, the plan and the candidates to secure jobs, lifestyle and opportunities into the future.

My CLP Government will reignite our can-do Territory spirit by supporting Territorians and businesses who want to have a go. We will ensure community safety by proudly backing and empowering our police, and putting victims, not offenders, first in the justice system.

We will set a course to generate reliable clean energy and transmit it to the nation, along with developing our vast mineral resources to build the Territory’s wealth.

We will connect the Territory with infrastructure. We will cultivate our agricultural potential, support pastoralists and increase exports of fresh food.

My Government will fast-track water security to support supply and economic development.

A blueprint will be developed to reboot the Territory as the best natural, cultural and ecological tourism destination on earth.

We will ensure the public service and private sector work in partnership.

We will fix the budget by ending the waste and wrong priorities.

We will drive opportunities to grow our population and sustain it by offering access to the best health and education services, while affording the freedom to enjoy our lifestyle that is one of a kind.

The CLP team is a capable, experienced and diverse group of Territorians who are determined to roll up their sleeves, make a difference and secure a future for us and for our children.

With strong leadership the Territory can be the envy of the nation that is the envy of the world. I ask you to help us make it happen.

Let’s go!

Lia
‘My CLP Government will reignite our can-do Territory spirit by supporting Territorians and businesses who want to have a go.’

My Executive Team

From left to right: Gerard Maley, mechanic, lawyer and candidate for Nelson; Lia Finocchiaro, Opposition Leader and Member for Spillett; Steve Edgington, Mayor of Barkly, former police officer and candidate for Barkly; Damien Ryan, Mayor of Alice Springs, a former small business owner and candidate for Araluen; Tracey Hayes, business owner, former CEO of the NT Cattlemen’s Association and candidate for Fannie Bay.
Our Vision for the Northern Territory
Our Plan for Jobs

Key to our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will be getting Territorians back to work and creating new opportunities.

A CLP Government will generate additional job opportunities in a post COVID-19 economy through investing in infrastructure to support core job creating industries such as cattle, mining, onshore gas, agribusiness and increased energy generation from solar energy and gas. This will both improve local industry competitiveness and create new processing and manufacturing opportunities.

The CLP understands business and the challenges faced by business operators, big and small. We will help Territorians to enter and stay in businesses, whether those businesses are run out of the spare bedroom or large and employing hundreds of locals.

Through the Office of Territory Coordinator, a CLP Government will ensure improved facilitation of major projects with government to ensure that worthy projects can be fast tracked as a priority. Through our goal to reduce approval timeframes across government by 50%, we will direct every new idea for a private enterprise like a major project.

We will also ensure the innovation borne out of the COVID-19 adversity becomes our new normal and that government adopts a streamlined approach to regulation and other prescriptive measures to help make new opportunities become reality. No business or project should come out of this crisis waiting on government to act before they can take the next step.
Our Plan for the Mining Industry

Mining represents the single largest contributor to economic activity in the Northern Territory, representing about 22.7 per cent of Gross State Product in 2018-19. The industry represents $5.74 billion in economic activity and employs almost 7,000 people.

However, most of the Territory remains unexplored because the current government’s policy approach, and a barely functioning approvals process, erodes private sector confidence to explore or develop new mines.

We are not reaching our potential but the CLP is committed to growing the mining sector by encouraging private investment through cutting red tape, slashing approval times and removing regulatory uncertainty.

Last year’s Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies ranked the Northern Territory 30 out of 76 for Policy Perception, down from 22 in 2016. Factors like Labor’s world’s-worst hybrid mining tax, delays in exploration approvals and holdups in approvals for production increase sovereign risk and make the Territory less attractive to investment.

Through our ad-valorem tax system Territorians can have confidence that what is mined will be taxed and industry can have certainty that the Territory is a safe place to invest and open for business.
Our Plan for Primary Industries

Our primary industries sector employs thousands of Territorians and contributes over $700 million to the Territory’s economy each year and the CLP is committed to growing our primary industries through marketing, research, red tape reduction and cooperative policy development.

The live cattle industry is a primary economic driver, with over 550,000 head of cattle exported interstate and overseas each year. East Asia, and particularly Indonesia, are our largest markets. The CLP will work with industry to reach new markets and enter existing markets more efficiently.

Mangos, melons, vegetables and other horticultural products contribute over a quarter of a billion dollars to the economy. Likewise, forestry is the second largest productive land use in the Territory and represents a significant industry. The expansion of existing markets and exploration of new ones, such as hemp and cotton, represent opportunities for the future.

Commercial fishing and aquaculture is a $70+ million sector of the economy and is continuing to grow. The continued productivity of our fisheries and the development of new opportunities will be a key focus.
Our Plan for Business

A CLP government will reignite our can-do Territory spirit by supporting Territorians and businesses who want to have a go.

Territory businesses are resilient and have always been able to meet new challenges thrown up by operating in one of the most remote and challenging environments in the nation.

This has been particularly evident with COVID-19 where many businesses work tirelessly to adapt, retool and find new ways of connecting with customers and new opportunities.

The CLP will create a business environment that supports new thinking. An environment where ideas can turn into reality and be helped rather than hindered by process. We will be outcome, not process focused.

The CLP recognises that all too often the regulatory burden on small and medium business means time away from core business. We will make concentrating on your business easier, by cutting red tape, speeding up government decision making by halving approvals timeframes by 50% and consulting with industry and Territorians on any changes before making them law.
Our Plan for Energy

The onshore gas industry represents an opportunity for the Territory to transform into an energy exporter and manufacturing hub, adding more than 6,500 high paying jobs and producing cleaner burning fuel for the world and supporting private investment into the future. It will also provide a base for providing stable renewable energy to domestic and global markets.

Our energy security is important and a Country Liberal Government will ensure we not only have reliable energy for ourselves, we will have enough to export to the rest of Australia and the world.

Territorians are entitled to reliable and affordable power and it is the responsibility of government to ensure that all essential services are provided economically and efficiently.

A Country Liberal Government will take reducing greenhouse gas emissions seriously. Climate change is a global issue and the Territory needs to do its part in reducing carbon emissions, but this should not result in increased costs to Territorians or decreased stability in networks.

The CLP supports the development of our vast reserves of natural gas for use as a “transitional” fuel source to tackle climate change, and developing solar and hydrogen as renewable energy sources securing our place in the clean energy market.
One of the core values of the CLP is that we believe individuals should be required to take personal responsibility for their actions. Every crime requires a consequence and repeat offenders should face escalating consequences based on the nature and seriousness of the offending.

The CLP will put victims of crime first, not offenders. Victims need to have a significant voice in the justice process and should be provided with sufficient assistance to help them recover after being the victim of a crime and be involved in the justice process.

The CLP also believes in equal justice for every Territorian. The CLP supports solutions which will help everyone constructively engage in improving the justice system, such as a comprehensive Aboriginal Justice Agreement. We will lead initiatives to advance these principles, such as a new model for bush courts and specialised courts to deal with alcohol and drug offences.

Rehabilitation, correcting behaviour and preventing re-offending is at the core of the correctional system. The CLP pioneered the innovative Sentenced to a Job program that caused re-offending rates to decrease. The Labor Government has made massive cuts to this program. Programs that reduce re-offending, such as Sentenced to a Job, decrease crime and should be fully supported.
Our Plan for Youth Justice

A mix of long term and acute immediate approaches are needed to address youth crime. The Country Liberal Party recognises the urgency with which youth crime must be addressed.

The focus on addressing crime should always be on prevention enforcement, rehabilitation, diversion and consequence, and the CLP supports accountability and real consequences for those who do the wrong thing.

We will involve parents and carers, and ensure they are held accountable for the whereabouts and activities of their children, and support regular engagement between police and Aboriginal elders, youth and organisations.

The CLP is committed to supporting community-led solutions and putting victim rights ahead of offender rights. We will ensure consequences include mandatory community service, boot camps, skills training and escalating consequences for repeat offenders.

We will reverse Labor changes in this area including moving responsibility for youth justice out of Territory Families to Correctional services; reversing the Labor Government’s change to the Bail Act which removed the offence of breach of bail condition for youths; and to the Youth Justice Act which closed courts to the public.
Our Plan for Health

The Country Liberal Party believes Territorians deserve the very best of health care and services, no matter where they live in the Northern Territory.

From prevention to treatment, we will find innovative ways to address health issues and properly resource health programs and services.

We will work to maximise the best mix of public and private health services so that Territorians can choose the type of service they wish to use. We are committed to the provision of world class hospital services, which are accessible to all Territorians.

We are serious about tackling the areas of alcohol harm, mental health services, aged care, disability services and sexual health. We will continue to support our hardworking medical and health support staff and focus on what works for Territorians.

In particular, the Country Liberal Party will increase the number of locally controlled bush health clinics, implement a suicide prevention plan with time frames, investigate additional mental health treatment facilities and expand the Telehealth program.
Our Plan for Our Diverse Community

The CLP believes that all Territorians, regardless of age, background or location, deserves access to all the Territory has to offer.

The CLP recognises that our diverse population represents a strength for the Northern Territory, providing a wider range of viewpoints and ideas to improve the community. People of all ages, cultures and backgrounds in the Northern Territory should be supported to enjoy the Territory lifestyle.

We will ensure that equal access to health services, secure housing, an affordable cost of living, recreational activities, and safe communities are all supported as important drivers of diversifying and supporting the community, including for our senior Territorians, veterans, and multicultural community.

Senior Territorians add value to the community through their wisdom, experience and ongoing contribution through activities such as volunteering and family care. We want to attract and retain seniors, and ensure that they have access to appropriate aged care options, and the facilities and activities they need to enjoy engagement with their communities. Likewise veterans living in the Territory are recognised for the important contribution they have made to their country, and have earned the right to life in safety, comfort and dignity.

Our multicultural community contributes distinct knowledge along with new and important skillsets and viewpoints that enrich the Northern Territory socially as well as boosting the economy. The CLP will support the facilities and events that promote a strong and diverse multicultural life in the Territory.
Our Plan for Aboriginal Affairs

The Country Liberal Party is committed to empowering Aboriginal Territorians. By 2021, it is estimated that around 31.5% of our population will be Aboriginal Territorians. By working together, we believe giving real decision making power to Aboriginal people will result in local decisions more in tune with communities’ goals and aspirations.

A CLP Government will empower Aboriginal people and remote communities to ensure that real decision making at a local level takes into account land councils, so that members of land councils can also hear the aspirations of communities and local leadership.

A CLP Government is committed to improving health and educational outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians.

Half of the Territory is held by Aboriginal people, and we support measures to empower people to create economic opportunities and employment on their land.

We will work with the Australian Government, land councils and local communities to deliver services and build houses, involving land councils in a new collaborative approach to ensuring that each community has the tools to strengthen local approaches and make informed decisions.

For too long, governments have taken a ‘we know what’s best for you’ approach to Aboriginal affairs, which has led to a disconnect and a lack of substantial policy success.

A CLP Government will empower Aboriginal people to be part of decision-making processes to address issues like economic development, housing, health, education and training, employment and incarceration.
Our Plan for Education

We believe every student deserves access to quality education no matter where they live, and schools should be safe, supportive and respectful communities that promote student wellbeing and outcomes.

A Country Liberal Government will improve outcomes for students, setting them up for the future. Our focus will be on increasing literacy, numeracy, and on school attendance, because children are the future and we need to nurture and grow young minds. We recognise that students with special needs will need special help and resources to truly reach their potential.

We support autonomy for schools to make decisions and manage their resources to support the specific needs of their students and meet national standards. We also believe a strong non-government school sector provides choice for parents in the education of their children.

Growing international education and training our young people for the technical jobs of the future in mining, gas and renewables will be a focus of the CLP to gain long term economic and social benefits.

Specifically, a CLP Government will expand school-based constables; provide needs based infrastructure funding; support additional independent public schools; review boarding and other allowances for isolated children; and address hearing health of all children, in schools and beyond.

All tertiary education, VET and workforce training should be aimed at providing for future education and employment. Vocational education and training should always be driven by economic development priorities, business and industry needs. We support local training of aboriginal Territorians that is linked to community projects with educational outcomes. We will lobby the Australian Government for regional university funding and incentives; and engage with the relevant sectors to identify priority industry areas for funding of training to grow a skilled workforce to support local business.
Tourism and hospitality have taken the biggest hit during COVID-19, with both individual businesses and borders shut. Visitor numbers were already falling in the year leading up to the pandemic – making the situation even worse for the sector.

Through our Tourism Blueprint, a Country Liberal Government will reverse this trend through opening up our magnificent National Parks and upgrading the roads and tourist infrastructure to ensure they are more accessible.

It is not good enough for the Territory only to be open for tourism during the dry season. The beautiful green of the wet is a sight worth seeing and we need to market and deliver the Territory as a year-round destination.

Tourism and hospitality have taken the biggest hit during COVID-19, with both individual businesses and borders shut. Visitor numbers were already falling in the year leading up to the pandemic – making the situation even worse for the sector.

Through our Tourism Blueprint, a Country Liberal Government will reverse this trend through opening up our magnificent National Parks and upgrading the roads and tourist infrastructure to ensure they are more accessible.

A renewed focus on festivals and events in the Top End and Central Australia will give visitors a reason to come and refreshing our tourism product will make sure that our guests enjoy the best possible experiences during their stay here.

The arts, culture, and heritage of the Northern Territory are drawcards and something we are all proud of and will continue to support. More hiking and biking trails will help tourists and locals enjoy our amazing outdoors.

We will end the saga of the National Aboriginal Art Gallery and build it at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

We will ensure that our CBDs in Darwin and Alice Springs are welcoming, vibrant and integrated places that people love to visit and will tell their friends and family about long after they return home.

Our Plan for Tourism and Festivals

Tourism is a core industry in the Northern Territory, worth $2.4 billion to the NT economy and employs approximately 17,000 Territorians.
Our Plan for Transport

It is vital that we build the required infrastructure that connects people, places and markets and will bring the Territory into the 21st century and open us up to new markets in Australia and the world.

This infrastructure includes shipping and port facilities; highway-grade bituminised roads along all of our remote trucking routes, opening up economic opportunities for remote communities; traffic congestion mitigation; and development of public transport networks. Connecting our products with market increases the efficiencies of our supply chain, making our businesses more competitive.

A CLP Government will work with the Australian Government to bring forward funding to seal rural and regional trucking routes including the current mango and beef roads, as well as tourism routes such as the Outback Way.

We will lobby hard to get a Territory voice on the board of Infrastructure Australia, to make sure we are heard when infrastructure decisions are made.

A CLP Government will conduct a review into the NT’s public transport networks to ensure that the network keeps pace with development.
Our Plan for Lifestyle and Sport

People may move to the Territory for jobs and opportunity, but they stay because of the lifestyle. To grow the Territory, we need to focus on improving the Territory’s liveability and our lifestyle.

The outdoors defines the Territory lifestyle, whether it be fishing, hunting, camping, boating, enjoying our parks and reserves or participating in organised sport. There is something here for everyone.

The Country Liberal Party will continue to keep our fisheries healthy through good management to ensure ongoing access for recreational fishers such as continuing to improve our recreational fishing infrastructure.

It is imperative that any Northern Territory Government recognises that the outdoor lifestyle is a core part of what makes the Territory unique and every effort should be made to protect it.

There are many freedoms that have been wound back under Labor.

A CLP Government will continue the Sports and Swimming vouchers programs. We will upgrade our fishing infrastructure and regional sporting infrastructure, including lighting.

A CLP Government will not introduce mandatory boat registration and licensing.

We will also ensure cracker night remains a part of Territory Day celebrations for all Territorians.
Our Plan for the Public Sector

For an outstanding and vibrant Northern Territory, we need an outstanding and vibrant public service.

A CLP Government believes in a motivated, focused, and agile public service. Public service jobs are safe under a Country Liberal Government and we will ensure that the public servants are given adequate direction and empowerment to make decisions.

We want to consult and work with all public servants to revitalise the public service and ensure that it looks outwards and focuses on outcomes.

Departmental chief executives will be held accountable for spending within budgets and streamlining processes to open the NT up for business.

The CLP is committed to properly resourcing our frontline services. This includes a commitment to continuous recruitment of police officers, tailored incentives and investment in technology and equipment to help them do their jobs more safely and efficiently.

A CLP Government will facilitate a strong working partnership between the public service and Territorians and private sectors to get the Territory moving again.

We will also introduce secondments of public servants to local businesses, which will help bridge the gap between the public and private sectors.

A CLP Government will push the Commonwealth to increase the Defence presence in Darwin and the Northern Territory. Shifting forces back here will truly position Australia for the Asian Century in line with our strategic interests, grow the Northern Territory economy and provide greater opportunities for Territory businesses through an increased population.