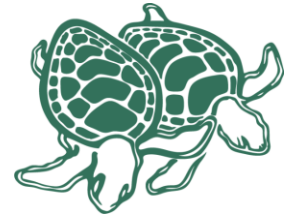


Environment Centre NT

protecting nature | living sustainably | creating a climate for change



Darwin Harbour - taking care of our backyard

Too many coastal areas around Australia have been damaged irreparably. We want a better future for Darwin Harbour, and now is our chance.

Darwin has a unique coastal lifestyle worth protecting. Darwin city is surrounded by the waters of the harbour, providing a beautiful backdrop to the daily lives of Darwinites, a source of recreation and leisure, and providing fish and crabs caught by many fishers and their families. It is a centrepiece for the tourist experience and facilitates the passage of many marine-based industries. This natural environment, the beauty and the bounty it provides, are at the heart of the Top End way of life.

But our Harbour is facing growing pressures. Many Territorians have observed that things on the water are not as good as they used to be. Important mangrove habitats have been cleared and our iconic dolphins are leaving the Harbour. Pollution is getting worse and more large scale industrial developments are proposed in our coastal backyard. This is taking a toll on the health of our Harbour.

A strong plan to safeguard our Harbour is essential if we are to maintain its environmental, cultural, social and economic values for the enjoyment of future generations.

The development of a strategy for Darwin Harbour is underway, yet not complete.

As a community of proud Territorians, we can work to ensure Darwin Harbour is managed and protected for all, now and into the future.

Too many coastal areas around Australia have been damaged irreparably. We want a better future for Darwin Harbour. The Territory community expects their coastal backyard will be well managed and protected.

This NT election we call on all parties to take care of our coastal backyard Darwin Harbour. The Darwin Harbour strategy must be accompanied by an implementation plan.

This election, will your party commit to:-

- 1. Implement the *Darwin Harbour Strategy*, including:**
 - a. Conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment of Darwin Harbour, including Middle Arm,**
 - b. Develop an integrated and harbour-wide Dredge Management Plan.**