

YOU can help keep our Top End coasts healthy

The great outdoors is the heart of our Top End lifestyle. Nothing down south comes close to the national parks, incredible coastline and tropical seas we call home. In fact, we have some of the last healthy tropical waters on the planet - with mangroves, coral reefs and seagrasses, home to turtles, dugongs, snubfin dolphins and huge schools of reef fish.

Healthy coasts are central to our treasured Top End way of life and our fishing lifestyle. They are a tourism magnet - core to our economy and local livelihoods.

While much of our coast is still in pretty good shape, they are facing growing pressures. Many Territorians observe that things on the water are not as good as they used to be; pollution is getting worse and some of the best fishing is in decline. The mangrove dieback, impacting 1000 kilometers of the Gulf coastline, sent shockwaves through the community and the threat of seabed mining is looming. The Territory coast is under stress and pressures are on the increase.

Your MLA needs to hear that this is an issue of real concern to YOU – their local constituent.

The Gunner Government has committed to deliver a *Coastal and Marine Management Strategy* - this is the first of it's kind in the Territory and we congratulate them. This Strategy is a good first step to tackle the threats to our coast and lifestyle.

You're in a powerful position right now while big decisions are being made about the Northern Territory's coasts and seas. It provides a great opportunity to deliver enduring protections of our coasts.

Can you please take a few minutes to contact your MLA, urging them to deliver a *Coastal and Marine Management Strategy* we can rely on - one that secures the unique cultural, conservation and fishing values of the Top End's coast?

There are proven solutions on offer, which must be at the heart of a plan for the Top End's coast and can be tailored to the needs of the Territory - including Sea Country Indigenous Protected Areas, national parks in the sea and recreational fishing areas.

It's important your MLA hears from you at this time. Your personal story and connection to healthy coasts and seas is most important to convey, but if you would like additional talking points please see overleaf.

Please take a few minutes to contact your MLA by phone, email, letter, or arrange a face to face meeting - contact details on the attached sheet.

Thank you for your support.

Jimmy, and the Keep Top End Coasts Healthy team

W: www.topendcoasts.org.au

F: [Facebook.com/topendsealife](https://www.facebook.com/topendsealife)



Talking points for contacting your MLA

Values:

- Healthy coasts are central to our treasured Top End way of life and our fishing lifestyle. They are a tourism magnet - core to our economy and local livelihoods.
- Nothing down south comes close to the national parks, incredible coastline and tropical seas we call home. In fact, we have some of the last healthy tropical waters on the planet - with mangroves, coral reefs and seagrasses, home to turtles, dugongs, snubfin dolphins and huge schools of reef fish.
- The NT coastline has provided a continuous home to Indigenous communities for thousands of years. For saltwater people all aspects of social, cultural and economic life are intimately connected to the health of their coastal lands and seas, and must be managed carefully so future generations can continue that connection.
- Currently more than 80% of international visitors to the Top End seek out nature-based activities, making the Territory's marine and coastal environment a critical tourism asset.
- The ecosystem services of the Territory coastal and marine environment are worth greater than \$420 million per annum (seagrasses, reefs, mangroves, estuaries and other coastal habitats, and coastal waters)¹.

Threats and pressures:

- The Territory coast is at the heart of our Top End lifestyle. But its health is under stress.
- Our fishing is amazing, but not as good as it used to be. Mangroves are being destroyed, pollution is damaging our beaches, and the threat of seabed mining is looming.
- The Territory recently suffered one of the worst mangrove dieback events in the world, affecting 1000 kilometres of coastline. While banned in some states, unbelievably clearing of mangroves is still permitted here in the NT. This is taking its toll.
- More than 90% of the Territory's coastline is covered by petroleum exploration. Our tropical seas face seismic testing, mining, shipping, port expansion and the risk of oil spills.
- The threat of seabed mining is still looming in the Top End. Seabed mining is like taking a bulldozer to the ocean floor - decimating our marine life, polluting our seas, threatening our fishing, and destroying sites of cultural significance. It has never been allowed before in Australia, but the Territory's temporary ban runs out in July 2018.
- Popular reef fish have seriously declined due to overfishing in key areas. Scientists have identified golden snapper and black jewfish as being at risk of collapse – a reminder that the Territory is not immune from the problems experienced elsewhere and that pressure is increasing. Fishers are having to travel further and further to get the same quality of catch.
- Poor river management has downstream effects on our marine life and can be devastating for recreational and commercial fishers.

Our coasts and seas at a crossroads

- The health of our Top End coasts is at risk. We must take action to safeguard our coasts, our fishing, and our enviable way of life into the future.
- The Gunner Government's commitment to develop a Coastal and Marine Management Strategy is a good first step to tackle the threats to our coast and lifestyle. Now the community is looking for the Government to deliver a plan it can rely on – one that secures the unique cultural, conservation and fishing values of the Top End's coast. This would bring significant benefits to the NT's people and economy, particularly in tourism.
- There are proven solutions on offer, which must be at the heart of a plan for the Top End's coast and can be tailored to the needs of the Territory – including Sea Country Indigenous Protected Areas, national parks in the sea and recreational fishing areas.

¹ Centre for Conservation Geography Briefing paper on the economics of the Northern Territory Marine and Coastal Environment.
www.topendcoasts.org.au/resources

Contact your MLA

See map overleaf to identify your electorate

Electorate	MLA Name	Address	Phone	Email
Casuarina	Lauren Moss	Casuarina Electorate Office PO Box 40175 CASUARINA NT 0811	(08) 8999 6343	electorate.casuarina@nt.gov.au
Fannie Bay	Michael Gunner	Fannie Bay Electorate Office PO Box 11 PARAP NT 0804	(08) 8999 6437	electorate.fanniebay@nt.gov.au
Fong Lim	Jeff Collins	Fong Lim Electorate Office GPO Box 892 DARWIN NT 0801	(08) 8999 6501	electorate.fonglim@nt.gov.au
Johnston	Ken Vowles	Johnston Electorate Office PO Box 40628 CASUARINA NT 0811	(08) 8999 6620	electorate.johnston@nt.gov.au
Karama	Ngaree Ah Kit	Karama Electorate Office PO Box 6 KARAMA NT 0813	(08) 8999 6659	electorate.karama@nt.gov.au
Nightcliff	Natasha Fyles	Nightcliff Electorate Office PO Box 1283 NIGHTCLIFF NT 0814	(08) 8999 6743	electorate.nightcliff@nt.gov.au
Port Darwin	Paul Kirby	Port Darwin Electorate Office GPO Box 4270 DARWIN NT 0801	(08) 8999 6755	electorate.portdarwin@nt.gov.au
Sanderson	Kate Worden	Sanderson Electorate Office PO Box 232 KARAMA NT 0813	(08) 8999 6781	electorate.sanderson@nt.gov.au
Spillett	Lia Finocchiaro (Country Liberal Party)	Spillett Electorate Office PO Box 4248 PALMERSTON NT 0831	(08) 8999 6674	electorate.spillett@nt.gov.au
Wanguri	Nicole Manison	Wanguri Electorate Office PO Box 41104 CASUARINA NT 0811	(08) 8999 6795	electorate.wanguri@nt.gov.au

If you live outside this Darwin and Palmerston area, find your electorate at www.ntec.nt.gov.au

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA BOUNDARIES OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS 2015

SHEET 3 OF 6



Cadastral as at May 2015



Maps produced by
Department of Lands and Planning and the Environment

Boundaries of the Legislative Assembly Electoral Divisions
as notified by the Northern Territory Government Gazette
dated 16 September 2015 shown thus

