



Want to know where the major parties stand on protecting our Top End Coasts?

Our 2016 Election Promise Tracker breaks down the marine and coastal policy commitments made by the major parties.

This Territory Election we asked all parties to commit to...

Developing a Coastal and Marine Management Strategy to manage current and future threats and adequately safeguard the Territory's coasts and waterways into the future. The Plan will be –

- evidence-based and culturally sensitive, using sound science and a strongly consultative approach to management and conservation involving all Territorians,
- include a range of Territory specific coastal and marine protection measures, which will act as an insurance policy for the Territory's unique lifestyle and its natural and cultural values, and will commence its implementation from 2018.

We also acknowledge coastal and marine conservation policies committed to in addition to the Plan:

Party	Coastal and Marine Management Plan	Additional measures (note, for full policy detail go to the party websites)
	 <p>Labor will develop a Coastal and Marine Management Strategy. The strategy will be a science based and consultative approach to management and conservation, involving all stakeholders. Commencing operation in 2018 the Plan will safeguard our coasts – boosting recreational fishing opportunities, preventing damaging pollution, fostering sustainable industries and safeguarding the Territory's unique lifestyle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor will Invest \$400 000 to develop a comprehensive plan of management for Limmen Bight Marine Park • Reinstate the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee • Provide \$200 000 to the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University for urgent mangrove research to understand the threats posed by climate change and possible adaption strategies to pursue • Labor will not approve the Bayview proposed development • Transfer all environmental approval, assessment, oversight and enforcement powers to the Department of the Environment and the Environmental Protection

<p>For more information: http://territorylabor.com.au/</p>		<p>Authority (EPA) and properly fund these enforcement bodies to do their jobs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the powers of the EPA to enforce regulation and punish noncompliance; • Close the loophole which allows major projects to escape an Environmental Impact Assessment (no repeats of the Port Melville debacle).
 <p>For more information: https://countryliberals.org.au/</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CLP will continue to develop conservation strategies for Territory's parks, reserves and coastlines • Extend the eastern side of the Limmen Bight Marine Park • Support the local community to seek funding from the Australian Government's recent \$12.4 million announcement to expand biosecurity work and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rangers, to establish a Bathurst Island Marine Ranger Program • Increase investment in the Casuarina Coastal Reserve • Greater use of the Charles Darwin National Park in a conservationally sensitive way.
 <p>For more information: http://greens.org.au/nt</p>	 <p>The Greens are committed to developing a plan of management for the Territory's marine and coastal values. The Greens see co-management of Northern Territory waters based on a combination of ecosystem science and traditional ecological knowledge as the most sustainable and appropriate model for the management of our marine environment.</p> <p>The Greens will pursue a thorough scientific assessment and evaluation of biological, physical and cultural resources and values in Northern Territory waters and, where appropriate, make this information publicly available to facilitate future planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recognise that Territory fishing - both recreational and commercial - depends on the effective protection of critical marine nurseries and habitats, including mangroves, estuaries, sea-grass and reefs, which in turn are impacted on by interconnected land management. • The Greens will identify significant mangrove communities for high level protection and active management as conservation reserves; • Introduce zoning level protection that prohibits the clearing and other destructive actions in all remaining mangroves. • exceptions may accommodate planned community access to waterways; • Prohibit the development of canal estates, which are already banned in other Australian states;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • target public funding for research to investigate natural threats and inform protection of mangrove communities; and • institute effective catchment management to reduce land-based sources of marine pollution.
 <p>For more information: http://1territory.party/</p>	 <p>1 Territory absolutely commits to developing a Coastal and Marine Management Strategy to manage current and future threats and adequately safeguard the Territory's coasts and waterways into the future.</p> <p>We commit funding of \$2 million for a proper study of the NT marine coastal environment and a further \$500,000 towards developing the Strategy. We believe that this work should be commenced as soon as possible without delay, which could result in further, irreversible damage to our coastal environments.</p> <p>The strategy will be evidence-based and culturally sensitive, using sound science and a strongly consultative approach to management and conservation involving all Territorians, include a range of Territory specific coastal and marine protection measures, which will act as an insurance policy for the Territory's unique lifestyle and its natural and cultural values, and will commence its implementation from 2018.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will maintain a truly independent Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) whose recommendations are implemented without intervention by government. We will reform the environmental assessment process to enable the NT EPA to issue standalone, enforceable, environmental approvals for developments with potential to cause environmental harm. • We will consolidate all environment protection laws into one Act to be administered by the NT EPA. We will ensure the environmental decision making process is open and transparent by making key documents available to the public through an online portal. We will reform other environmental and planning legislation to ensure Australia's international obligations on ecologically sustainable development are reflected in our laws.