



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 2/3/16

## **Territory Labor's Environment policy welcomed**

Top End Sea Life welcomes Territory Labor's environment policy committing to protecting our unique environment and lifestyle.

Jacqui Taylor from the Australian Marine Conservation Society said "This policy recognises that our Territory economy depends on healthy and intact ecosystems and the importance our natural environment plays in maintaining and developing future sustainable economic opportunities."

"We commend Labor for identifying the need to improve the laws and government capacity to protect our Top End environment and for providing vital funds to help strengthen local environment groups who represent the community and our environment," Ms Taylor said.

"We look forward to further details of policy from both Labor and the CLP on their plans to adequately protect our treasured - but increasingly pressured - coastal environments and lifestyle."

This includes the Limmen Bight Marine Park, which whilst declared in 2012 needs completion of its management arrangements to become operational.

"Limmen is important for its extensive seagrass beds, which are home for dugong, turtles, seahorses and a range of fish species. But it faces uncertainty from the looming threat of sea-bed mining, unprecedented in Australian waters. Long awaited management arrangements must be science based, deliver good biodiversity conservation while protecting and enhancing recreational fishing opportunities," said Ms Taylor.

The Northern Territory is recognised globally for its natural, cultural and recreational values.

"Our marine environment is one of the last relatively pristine tropical ecosystems on the planet," said Ms Taylor. "We hope to see good policies from all sides of politics that ensure our Top End marine life and envied lifestyle is maintained."

For more information contact:

Jacqui Taylor - Australian Marine Conservation Society - 0477 041 877

Territory Labor Policy Paper - [Healthy Environment, Strong Economy](#)

Top End Sea Life is an alliance between the Australian Marine Conservation Society, the Environment Centre NT, and the Pew Charitable Trust.