The Northern Territory Government is working hard to keep our Territory lifestyle great.

As a government we are working hard to make life simpler, safer and smarter.

In deciding the Budget priorities over the next 12 months we have carefully considered Territorians desire for improved services and facilities.

We recognise the need to put the community at the centre of everything we do. And having spent the last two Budgets putting government finances back into shape, we are now in a position to make investments that see the community receive the dividends.

The Territory is experiencing substantial economic growth, especially through the impacts of major projects. However, this represents one component of our diverse economy and the challenge is to ensure that we capitalise on the growth and share the success with all Territorians.

The 2015-16 Budget recognises the importance of recreational fishing to the estimated 32,000 anglers who enjoy occasional or regular participation.

In this Budget you will notice:

• $4.5 million to upgrade the Dundee Beach boat ramp
• $3.21 million for the continued sustainable management of Territory aquatic resources
• $2 million to upgrade the Shady Camp boat ramp
• More than $1 million to continue providing access to Territory coastal waters for recreational and commercial fishers

In addition, the Northern Territory Government will provide $20,000 in support for the inaugural Darwin Boat, Travel and Leisure Show in September 2015.

In this Budget, we have funded infrastructure expenditure that connects the Territory through a transport infrastructure program worth $587 million.

The 2015-16 Budget is a response to the needs of Territorians while making our lifestyle the envy of others.

On behalf of the Northern Territory Government, we present to you the way ahead.

The Hon Adam Giles MLA
Chief Minister

The Hon David Tollner MLA
Treasurer
What we’ve done
Working closely with AFANT and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee

Fishing
The NT Government has worked closely with the Amateur Fishermen’s Association Northern Territory (AFANT) and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) to shape the future of recreational fishing in the Territory and ensure we have sustainable stocks to give anglers the chance of catching a trophy fish.

As a result, the Government has identified and resourced a number of priority investments within the Recreational Fishing Development Plan.

These include:
- $220,000 annually for ongoing recreational fishing surveys;
- $50,000 in 2014 to explore opportunities for new suburban ramps;
- $30,000 annually to the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee to provide strategic advice; and
- $20,000 for improved fishing and boating education

The consultation with key industry representative groups and Territorians, coupled with ongoing research and stock assessments by fisheries scientists, also assisted the Government to formulate fisheries management changes.

These changes include:
- New management arrangements for the commercial and charter fishing sectors including restricted access to a designated area around Darwin;
- New recreational personal possession limits and vessel limits to reduce effort on the take of ‘at-risk’ reef fish and enhance fishing quality;
- A network of temporary reef fish protection areas designed to protect and recover golden snapper, black jewfish and other at risk reef species in key areas near to Darwin;
- A maximum size limit of 90cm for barramundi and king threadfin salmon to be trialled in the Daly and Mary River Fish Management zones to help maintain an abundance of large ‘trophy’ fish that are highly sought after by anglers; and
- A new smart phone app to ensure all anglers ‘know their limits’.

32,000
recreational anglers in the Northern Territory

$20,000
for improved fishing and boating education

90cm limit
Maximum size limit of 90cm for Barramundi and King Threadfin in the Daly and Mary River Fish Management zones

Budget 2015-16
Improving access and fishing opportunities

Budget 2015 supports development of the Territory’s fishing sector infrastructure including:

- $4.5 million to upgrade the Dundee Beach boat ramp; and
- $2 million to upgrade the Shady Camp boat ramp

The NT Government has allocated $3.21 million for the continued sustainable management of Territory aquatic resources and the recreational fishing sector; Coastal reef fish populations such as golden snapper have come under threat in recent years.

To ensure we continue to maintain and enhance high quality fishing opportunities for the recreational and tourism fishing sectors, the government is investing $750,000 over three years for a fisheries enhancement program. This will include the production and release of fingerlings of target fish species and a study on artificial reef structures to enhance reef habitat.

Indigenous Territorians have the opportunity to build their skills in marine resource management and the maritime and seafood industries, with $250,000 provided to establish an Indigenous marine training program in Nhulunbuy. The establishment of a Nhulunbuy-based training program will provide a dedicated training facility on country and allow a significantly greater number of marine rangers to undergo certificate-based training each year.
Safety
The Government is giving Police the tools to keep a watchful eye over cars and trailers while you go fishing. We are determined to reduce crime and strengthen the society we live in.

Five new CCTV cameras have been installed at the Elizabeth River Boat Ramp and take the Territory’s total to 180 Police monitored CCTV cameras.

In 2015-16 a further $790,000 will be spent to expand car parking, install lighting and CCTV at Buffalo Creek. Buffalo Creek is one of our more popular harbour access points given its convenient location to Darwin’s northern suburbs.

We’ve also invested in ensuring people who use the Territory’s waterways understand the need to “Be Crocwise”, through a targeted community engagement and marketing strategy that drives awareness about crocodile safety among high risk groups and the broader community.

The risk of a crocodile attack is increasing due to changes in both crocodile and human populations. Crocodile management activities such as surveying, trapping and removing saltwater crocodiles are used to reduce the risk of crocodile attacks in many locations across the Top End.

Although warning signs have a role to play, it is not possible to have warning signs at every location across the NT that saltwater crocodiles may inhabit.

The safety of the public depends largely on public behaviour to reduce the risk of a crocodile attack.
Maintaining healthy waterways is a priority for the Northern Territory Government. This is a delicate balancing act given the major projects currently being developed around Darwin harbour.

The Darwin Harbour region extends from Gunn Point in the east, to Charles Point in the west. The region has a population of over 130,000 people (ABS 2013) and covers over 3200 km².

This makes Darwin Harbour vital to fishers, sailors, water sports and our tourism industry. We’re working hard to ensure the catchment continues to be healthy for many decades to come.

Each year we complete a report card to monitor changes in the harbour.

Key findings in the 2014 Darwin Harbour Report Card include:

- Fish diversity remains high, with over 400 species recorded;
- Dolphin populations remain stable, with Australian Snubfin, Australian Humpback and Bottlenose Dolphins all calling the Darwin Harbour home;
- No marine pests were detected during the monitored period; and
- Pathogen levels on public beaches remained within public health guidelines

The annual Report Card is a snapshot of water quality at a range of sites spanning the main body and arms of the Harbour, extending to Shoal Bay in the east.
Possession limits
Possession limits are the maximum number of fish you may keep; however, you should only take enough for your immediate needs. In consultation with stakeholders the Northern Territory Government has revised these limits. The new limits for recreational fishing come into effect in May 2015.

Possession limits are the key tools used to:

• Help keep recreational catches at sustainable levels;
• Share catches equitably among recreational fishers;
• Reduce the potential for localised over fishing; and
• Help eliminate the illegal sale of fish.

You may have a maximum of 15 fish in your possession. Included within this limit you may only have a maximum number of specified fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

To ensure fish species can be identified, the following rules apply:

• The entire skin must be left on fillets and trunks of all fish;
• Fillets from the species listed above must be stored in separate packaging to all other fish;
• Frozen fillets from different species must be kept in separate packaging;
• Two fillets together are deemed to comprise 1 fish;
• A piece of fish, other than a fillet, is to be counted as 1 fish, unless you can prove that 2 or more pieces of fish were obtained from the one fish; and
• It is illegal to tether fish dead or alive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Personal Possession Limit</th>
<th>Special controls and key information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Personal Possession Limit (GPL)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden snapper</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 per person and vessel limit of 1 fish over 90cm in the Mary and Daly River Fish Management zones. Use of a spear gun to take fish no longer prohibited. 55 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangrove jack</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cod and groper</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>120 max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barramundi</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vessel limit of 1 fish over 90cm (fork length) in the Mary and Daly River Fish Management zones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King threadfin</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin and sailfish</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red snappers – saddletail, crimson, Indonesian</td>
<td>See special controls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bream (Acanthopagrus sp)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Any combination to a limit of 10 total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other fish species not subject to specific individual limits</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unchanged limits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black jewfish</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Any combination to a limit of 3 Sawfish, northern river and speartooth sharks are protected and must not be taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish mackerel</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks (excluding protected species)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>