FISHING FOR A COMPROMISE

Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition, will be seeking a meeting with John Christophersen, Acting CEO of the Northern Land Council, to discuss the implications of recreational fishing permits.

I note on ABC radio this morning that when asked about the possibility of recreational fishers needing to pay for a permit Mr Christophersen replied "Um, that is not a decision that I would make at this point in time."

"I think there’s a window of opportunity here to engage in meaningful discussions about what might be gained and what might be lost should the NLC move to impose a fee for fishing the inter-tidal zone of Aboriginal land," says Mr Mills.

"We need to be building bridges in our community, not putting up roadblocks.

"I genuinely believe the NLC has the opportunity to bring Territorians together by not exploiting the Blue Mud Bay decision.

"No doubt the NLC is receiving plenty of advice on the commercial opportunities the Blue Mud Bay decision presents and there is the possibility of a significant role for traditional owners in managing the inter-tidal zone.

"I just hope the NLC is not blinded by the dollar signs flashing before it and in the process fails to see the potential social benefits that would flow from keeping our waterways open to all on an equal basis."

Further comment : Terry Mills 04188 33594