6th August 2008

COUNTRY LIBERALS FISHING POLICY

The Country Liberals have matched Labor’s election promises in key areas of fishing policy and surpassed them in others.

“The Country Liberal have committed to funding a recreational fishing plan, the barra licence buyback and to consider the closure of Bynoe and Finnis with the buyback.

“We have set aside $5 million for the upgrade of the Palmerston boat ramp. Labor has only committed $4 million to this project despite costing it at $5 million earlier in the year.

“Rather than put aside an untied amount of money for general infrastructure projects we will consider new infrastructure needs on a case by case basis.

“The Country Liberals also have much better polices for long term fishing needs in the Territory.

“We will have committed $30 million for the development of an alternative industrial site to the Harbour.

“Should Inpex establish itself at Middle Arm there will be the real prospect of down stream heavy industry following it to Darwin.

"The Country Liberals are not comfortable with the prospect of a petrochemical plant, uranium processing plant or smelter being set up in the middle of Darwin Harbour. Our plan is for alternative site away from the sea – Labor’s plan is for heavy industry in the Harbour.

“Further the Country Liberals will establish a fully independent EPA to act as a watchdog for the environment, including our precious river systems and coastal fishing. We support industry coming to the Territory but it must not pose a threat to our environment.
“Finally I have written to the Prime Minister urging him to legislate for the right to fish in the intertidal zone. Only the Federal Parliament has the power to guarantee the right to fish.

“Paul Henderson says he will negotiate for access rights for fishers. He also said he’d negotiate the Kembi land claim on the Cox Peninsula. 7 years later and the Kembi land claim remains unresolved.

“We need more certainty about our right to fish and unlike Labor are philosophically opposed to permits.”

To arrange further comment : Greg Charter 04000 14059

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