ADAM GILES
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

LABOR MISLEADS ON BOAT REGO

4 December, 2012

Labor’s attempt to scare recreational fishos about the possibility of the Territory Government introducing boat registrations has been sunk.

Transport Minister Adam Giles said it was typical of the way Labor likes to play divisive politics with attempts to foul the water about the necessary financial decisions the NT Government is required to implement to reduce the level of debt left by the previous Government.

“I can assure fishos that this rumour spread by Opposition leader Delia Lawrie deserves to be thrown in a crab pot with some of her other dead-duck comments,” Mr Giles said.

However, Mr Giles said the introduction of a National Marine Regulator would coincide and result in revised fees for the provision of marine services early in 2013.

Fees for marine regulatory services including vessel survey and marine qualifications assessments currently recover only around $170,000 of the cost of providing services worth $1.7 million.

He said an increase in fees to provide 35 per cent of cost recovery would be introduced when the National Marine Regulator is approved.

“This will bring the Territory’s fees to around midpoint of other states and result in $425,000 in additional revenue,” Mr Giles said.

The impact on current charges for two key services provided will be:

- An annual survey of a 15 m vessel would increase from $405 to $645 - this compares with $1290 in New South Wales and $740 in Western Australia.
- Costs to undertake an examination to obtain a coxswain qualification would increase from $53 to $84 - this is similar to other jurisdictions which range between $70 and $100.

In 2013, a national system of marine regulation for domestic commercial vessels will be established under a National Marine Regulator (the Australian Maritime Safety Authority). The Northern Territory Marine Safety Branch will deliver services to local industry as a delegate of the National Marine Regulator.

Due to national variations, fees and charges will remain fairly unchanged in the short term and will still be set by jurisdictions. National harmonisation may be considered at a later date with the goal of moving to full cost recovery.

Media Contact:
Bruce Cutler 0457509133

www.nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801