MEDIA RELEASE

Gerry McCarthy
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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THE CLP CAN’T BE TRUSTED WITH OUR WATER

Revelations that the CLP are planning to walk away from the 80/20 rule for water allocations is bad news for jobs, the environment and recreational anglers, Labor Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment, Gerry McCarthy said today.

“Any move to reduce the environmental flows from 80% and increase the consumptive pool beyond 20% flies in the face of the best available science, the Northern Territory’s commitments under the National Water Initiative and puts at risk the sustainability of industries, communities and all Territorians who rely on healthy water ways for their livelihoods, recreational pursuits and cultural practices,” Mr McCarthy said.

“The CLP simply can’t be trusted to manage our precious water resources, sustainably or fairly.”

“The last three years have seen the CLP:
• Use unscientific principles to justify increasing allocations;
• Make a large water allocation that involved the preselected CLP candidate for Lingiari;
• Allocate water from some aquifers in excess of the 20% policy;
• Remove the Strategic Indigenous Reserve.

“Any move away from an 80 per cent environmental flow ignores lessons learned across Australia and will put the Territory on a path which can damage the environment and put thousands of jobs that rely on this precious resource at risk.

“Within scientific guidelines and recommendations, if elected, a Territory Labor Government will ensure the 80/20 rule stays in place.

“Minister Higgins must immediately rule out any fundamental change to the 80/20 rule.

“Anything less is further evidence that the CLP can’t be trusted on water, the environment or sustainable industry and jobs.”

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