Country Liberals Government provides hook, line and sinker to entice children’s participation in Northern Territory fishing

29 May 2016

The Country Liberals Government has filled the burley bucket, encouraging young fishing participants across the Northern Territory to pick up a rod and get involved.

Commencing today, ‘recreational angling’ throughout the Territory will be recognised as an active recreation activity within the funding guidelines of the Department of Sport and Recreation Grass Roots program.

This means fishing clubs across the Territory who are affiliated with the Amateur Fishermen’s Association of the Northern Territory (AFANT) will be recognised and eligible to apply for Grass Roots Grants to the value of $5000 to invest in developing their clubs in the following areas:

- Programs or events to increase junior participation in fishing for boys and girls
- Appropriate protective and safety equipment for junior programs and/or events
- Assistance to develop club volunteer base
- Training for administrators and officials
- Assistance to become incorporated
- Minor facility upgrades

Fishing clubs can start applying for Grass Roots Grants from 1 July 2016 however Minister for Sport and Recreation Nathan Barrett was happy to approve two applications this financial year, valued at $5000 each to the Darwin Game Fishing Club and the Palmerston Game Fishing Club to start growing their participation base within junior anglers immediately.

“Fishing is clearly one of the most popular pastimes in the Northern Territory with more than 40,000 people enjoying the great outdoors on a regularly basis. These grants will open the door for more young fishing enthusiasts to experience the wonderful world of angling, Territory style,” Mr Barrett said.

“AFANT’s fishing clubs will have the opportunity to improve their offerings to existing members, especially families with young children to get involved. The grants will support exciting new
programs and invest in appropriate equipment enabling clubs to lure keen anglers wanting to land their first Territory barramundi.”

The inclusion of ‘recreational angling’ as an active recreation activity further highlights the Country Liberals commitment to supporting AFANT and their affiliated fishing clubs to grow their participation base.

Currently fishing clubs can register as an activity service provider through the Giles Governments’ highly successful Sports Voucher’s scheme however there is only one fishing club register to accept the vouchers.

“The fact there is only one club registered for the Sports Voucher scheme highlights we need to provide some extra incentives for the industry especially getting young people outdoors and active,” Mr Barrett said.

“With the confirmation of the Million Dollar Fish competition set to return for a second season, there is no better time to get into fishing in the Northern Territory.”

**Media Contact:**
Grant Stockwell, 0447 917 632