MEDIA RELEASE

Gerry McCarthy
MEMBER FOR BARKLY

24 July, 2016

Protecting Limmen Bight – Protecting Jobs, Lifestyle and Culture

Shadow Environment Minister and Member for Barkly, Gerry McCarthy, today announced how a Territory Labor Government would safeguard the future of Limmen Bight while creating jobs and protecting lifestyle and culture.

Mr McCarthy said the creation of Limmen Bight Marine Park by Labor in 2012 had been a big step forward, but unfortunately progressed had stalled under Adam Giles and his CLP Government.

“Limmen Bight is a special part of the Gulf, rich in marine life, including extensive seagrass beds and mangrove forests supporting commercial and recreational fishing, and the Territory’s largest population of dugongs, as well as dolphins and turtles,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Limmen Bight is iconic for Territory anglers, for its catches of mud crabs, barramundi reef fish and prawns.

“However, this important area like many others along our coast is faced with new and concerning pressures including seabed mining and extensive mangrove die-off.

“By the end of 2019 a Territory Labor Government will complete Limmen Bight Marine Park by finalising sensible, science based and well consulted management arrangements.”

A Territory Labor Government will invest $400 000 to:

- Ensure adequate funding to conduct a comprehensive consultation process, ongoing management and fair fisheries structural adjustment;
- Ensure a ban on seabed mining in the park - seabed mining is not compatible with a healthy marine environment in such as sensitive area;
- Seek to create and support ongoing employment opportunities for local Traditional Owners via cooperative management and coordination with Labor’s Indigenous Rangers support initiatives;
- Identify opportunities for sustainable and well managed tourism in the region through a properly consultative process;
• Develop the management arrangements in accordance with formal and accepted consultation processes under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and Native Title Act; and
• Develop a best practice monitoring and evaluation framework in cooperation with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders.

“Labor’s plan while provide an innovative model of marine management which protects biodiversity, respects indigenous culture, safeguards lifestyle and creates sustainable jobs,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Only Labor can be trusted to get it right and protect Limmen Bight.”

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