Protecting our Marine Environment
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The Territory’s coasts are unique, natural and culturally significant.

They are an important part of our identity, and way of life.

With this opportunity comes great responsibility – growing industrial development and coastal construction and the increasing use of the Territory’s natural resources requires good governance, sustainable management and protective measures tailored to the Territory.

**Labor will develop a Coastal and Marine Management Strategy.**

The strategy will be a science based and consultative approach to management and conservation, involving all stakeholders. Commencing operation in 2018 the Plan will safeguard our coasts—boosting recreational fishing opportunities, preventing damaging pollution, fostering sustainable industries and safeguarding the Territory’s unique lifestyle.

**Reinstate the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee.**

A Territory Labor Government will return to a community driven approach to managing Darwin Harbour by reinstating this committee which was scrapped when the CLP came to power.

Labor understands that giving everyone in the community a say, including recreational anglers, the indigenous community, business, industry and our researchers into managing Darwin Harbour is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do.

The first task for the committee will be to develop a community led, integrated plan of management for Darwin Harbour, and specifically a plan to protect vital habitats like mangroves which are at threat from climate change.

**Understanding and protecting mangroves.**

Labor recognises the threat posed by climate change for our marine environment, most recently seen through mangrove deaths and coral bleaching across the Territory and the Australia.

We will provide $200,000 to the Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods at Charles Darwin University for urgent mangrove research to understand the threats posed by climate change and possible adaption strategies to pursue.
Stop the CLP’s plans to expand Bayview and the resulting mangrove destruction.

Labor will protect Darwin Harbour mangroves from the CLP’s plans to expand Bayview against the community’s wishes. Labor will not approve the proposed development.

**Invest $400 000 to develop a comprehensive plan of management for Limmen Bight Marine Park**

In 2012, Territory Labor created the Limmen Bight Marine Park, but under the CLP the park stalled—left uncompleted and at risk from damaging seabed mining.

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.

Labor will:

- 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;
- Will 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.