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Territory Fishing Just Got That Much Better

More than $1 million will be spent to enhance the recreational fishing experience for Territorians, Member for Daly Rob Knight announced today.

Mr Knight said Budget 2011 would see the Henderson Labor Government continue to improve access and develop recreational fishing infrastructure, building on improvements already made.

“Our great outdoor lifestyle makes fishing a popular past time, and the Territory Government is committed to doing what it can to keep improving that great fishing experience,” Mr Knight said.

“As well as having the highest level of boat ownership up here, fishing is a major drawcard for tourists to the Top End, meaning the spinoffs for our economy are huge.

“This is why I am proud to announce a further $1 million in Budget 2011 to continue the fishing infrastructure program for new and upgraded facilities and improved recreational fishing opportunities across the NT.”

Mr Knight said upcoming initiatives to make fishing even better include expanding the Territory’s artificial reef system with sinking of 600 concrete culverts near Lee Point— the largest ever reef sinking undertaken in the Territory.

“Artificial reefs make the fishing experience even better by providing habitat for fish like jewfish and golden snapper.

“These 600 by 6 metre long steel reinforced concrete culverts are scheduled to be deployed in the next few months off Lee Point near Darwin.”

Mr Knight said other initiatives include:

- Upgrades at Saltwater Arm, located near the mouth of the Adelaide River, to upgrade and raise the ramp level,
- Resurfacing the ramp at Southport (Darwin Harbour);
- Construction of a new boat ramp at Hardies Billabong – an increasing popular dry season destination;
- Repairs to Buffalo Creek ramp

Mr Knight said the works will complement upgrades already completed across the Territory including the $4 million revamp of the Palmerston Boat Ramp, which was officially unveiled earlier this year.
This upgrade included a fishing jetty for anglers without boats, a floating pontoon for launching boats and security lighting, power and lighting to the ramp.

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