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No fresh Barra in Darwin is like no Souvlaki in Greece

Shadow Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources Kon Vatskalis says the CLP should conduct an impact study to assess the economic effects on tourism, the seafood and hospitality industry before they close Chambers and Finke Bays.

“Several Territory businesses have already made it clear that they will be decimated by this decision, but the effects will be felt much wider than just the commercial fishing and seafood retail industry,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“There will be no fresh wild caught barramundi in Territory restaurants, only frozen or farmed. Eating Barra in Darwin will be the same as eating Barra in Melbourne.

“Fresh Barramundi is an icon of Darwin restaurants. No fresh Barra in Darwin is like no Souvlaki in Greece.

“The CLP have been very keen to claim the benefits to recreational fishing tourism but have totally ignored the adverse effects on tourism and hospitality as a whole.

The decision has been made without science, without consultation and without an economic analysis.

The CLP haven’t even assessed where the commercial industry effort will be relocated.

“The public have 28 days to comment on the CLP’s plans. During this period an impact study should be done to assess the adverse economic impacts of their decision.

“At least then Territorians will know the facts.

“It is good that the CLP have committed to fully compensating all those directly affected, but an understanding of the wider implications is also necessary.

“The CLP claim to be accountable. While their decision was made without science or consultation the least they can do is wait until the impacts on the Territory economy are understood.”

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