Ken Vowles
Minister for Primary Industry and Resources

Media Release

Dam Good News for Territory Fishos

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Another recreational fishing project has been completed as part of the Territory Labor Government’s $50 million election commitment to invest in recreational fishing infrastructure.

Minister for Primary Industry and Resources Ken Vowles said the latest project is the installment of a new containment net at Manton Dam.

“Recreational fishing is a valuable contributor to the Territory’s economy and the NT is a world-class fishing destination. We are investing in the sector to cement our position,” he said.

“Manton Dam is a popular recreational fishing spot with year-round access. In February last year I helped release 110,000 barramundi fingerlings into the dam to sustain the barra population, and this new net will stop them escaping, increasing your chances of catching a barra.”

The containment net helps keep barra in the dam when the wet season rains cause flooding that could wash them over the dam wall. The previous net was at the end of its life, having been installed around 20 years ago.

“Installing a new net was recommended by the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) and is supported by AFANT,” Mr Vowles said.

AFANT Executive Officer David Ciaravolo said the timing of the installation was perfect.

“We are very supportive of this project, and it’s great to see it completed in time for the wet season rains, to ensure those magnificent barra in the dam stay in the dam,” he said.

The project follows the successful completion of several other recreational fishing projects, including the new Shady Camp boat ramp, CCTV at Dinah Beach boat ramp, an upgrade to Corroboree Billabong Road, and the sealing of Middle Arm boat ramp car park.

“Another project nearing completion is the scoping study into artificial reefs and fish aggregating devices (FADs). Cardno’s Darwin office is carrying out the study and they will look at scientific fish survey data, and biological and cost factors,” Mr Vowles said.

“But they also want to hear what Territory fishos have to say about potential locations for artificial reefs and FADs. To complete the online survey visit the DPIR website before Monday, February 19.”

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