



Northern
Territory
Government

February 2009

FISHING

MATTERS



HENDERSON GOVERNMENT FISHING COMMITMENTS

- **Barramundi Fishery Buy-Back** – investing \$1.8 million over three years to buy back another three commercial barra licences, bringing our total buyback commitment to six licences;
- **Palmerston Boat Ramp upgrade** - \$4 million project starting in 2009/10 including a security compound, floating pontoon, security lighting and power and water to ramp;
- **\$1 million annually for improved fishing access and infrastructure** – advice provided to the Minister on priority areas by the Recreational Fishing Access Working Group. Toilets have been installed at Corroborree Billabong with more infrastructure to be developed shortly;
- **State of the art Boat Ramp at East Arm** – this project is under construction and due for completion in April 2009;
- **Prepare Recreational Fishing Development Plan** – a 12-month community-based process, including the establishment of a working group, to develop plan for the future;
- **Dinah Beach Pontoon** – tender for this project expected to be advertised soon with work to be completed by end of 2009.



New Channel Point boat ramp under construction



Catch of the day



Daly River



An initiative of the
Northern Territory Government

Kon Vatskalis MLA

Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources

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BARRA LICENCE BUYBACK

The Territory Government has announced the buy-back of another three commercial barramundi licences making six in total.

To complement the current buyback, the Government has also announced its intention to close Bynoe Harbour and Finnis River to commercial barramundi fishing in 2009. Negotiations with commercial fishermen are currently underway.

The buyback of licenses will benefit recreational anglers and provide long term protection of our fish stock.

BLUE MUD BAY

The High Court decision on Blue Mud Bay on 30 July 2008 was a significant development in the last 12 months. Importantly, the decision confirmed the applicability of the Fisheries Act over all Northern Territory waters. This has provided certainty to industry and the community with respect to fisheries management.

The Chief Minister recently addressed Land Councils and fisheries stakeholders in relation to developing longer term arrangements arising from Blue Mud Bay.

It is Government's expectation that there will not be a requirement for a payment or a direct impost on commercial fishing licence holders for access to affected waters.

KENBI LAND CLAIM

The Northern Territory Government has negotiated a way forward for the future development and protection of Cox Peninsula.

An agreement has been reached with the Northern Land Council and traditional owners which will lead to the resolution of the Kenbi Land Claim - the longest running land claim in Australia.

The agreement also means that the High Court Blue Mud Bay ruling will not apply to Darwin Harbour. However, the area will still be subject to sacred site protection.

All commercial and recreational fishermen and other recreational users will be able to access the intertidal zone surrounding Cox Peninsula without fee or permit.

RECREATIONAL FISHING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Nominations are being called for people interested in helping map out the long term future of recreational fishing in the Northern Territory.

The Henderson Government is fulfilling its election commitment to establish a community-based working group to help develop a strategic plan for the future management and development of recreational fishing.

The Recreational Fishing Strategic Development Plan process will examine a broad range of matters including research, education and enforcement needs, and development opportunities such as artificial reefs, infrastructure and developing new access opportunities.

I expect the community-based working group will meet regularly over the next 6 to 12 months and will include representation from AFANT, the NT Guided Fishing Industry Association, community representatives from the Katherine, Borroloola and Nhulunbuy regions, as well as members representing fishing clubs, non-club anglers and the fishing tackle industry.

Written nominations for membership should be forwarded by 17 March 2009 to:

Recreational Fishing Development Plan Working Group: Fisheries

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