



## Northern Territory election August 2001. A scorecard on key environment issues.

**Please note:** the following questionnaire does not represent a recommendation by the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory to vote for any particular party or a how to vote card of any kind. **Also note that the following scorecard does not include independent candidates but was restricted to political parties that we were aware of at the time it was prepared. We encourage you to contact the independent candidates in your own electorate and ask them about their stance on environmental issues. If you are unclear which independents are running in your electorate contact the Electoral Commission of the Northern Territory on 08 89995814 or see their website at [www.nt.gov.au/nteo](http://www.nt.gov.au/nteo) .**

The Environment Centre of the Northern Territory is the leading non-profit community based environment group in the Northern Territory and has been in operation for over 15 years. For more information about the Environment Centre NT see our website at [www.ecnt.org](http://www.ecnt.org). The Environment Centre is not affiliated with any political party or independent candidate in the 2001 Northern Territory Election. We encourage voters to contact their local candidates and to make the environment a high priority when casting a vote.

### Scoring system:

0=opposition, 1=no support, 2=position unclear, 3= some support, 4=strong support.

**No correspondence was entered into with any of the parties following the assessment. To clarify the position of any particular party on any issue the Environment Centre encourages you to contact that party.**

Abbreviations used in the table below: CLP Country Liberal Party, ALP Australian Labor Party, SA Socialist Alliance, AD Australian Democrats, PHON- Pauline Hanson's One Nation

Issues/ Questions	Scores				
	CLP	ALP	SA	AD	PHON
<b>Protecting Darwin Harbour</b>					
1. In Government would your party protect the mangroves of Darwin in a reserve backed by legislation which prevents clearing?	0	2	4	4	2
2. In Government what percentages of the area of Darwin Harbour and Bynoe Harbour mangroves respectively would your party protect?	2	2	4	4	2
3. Will your party commit in writing prior to the election to implementing your commitments to protect Darwin Harbour mangroves within the first 3 months of government?	2	4	4	4	2
<b>Total for Darwin Harbour</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Reducing Waste, Conserving Energy and Tackling Global Warming</b>					
1. In Government will your party introduce container deposit legislation for PET, glass and aluminium?	2	2	4	4	2
2. In Government will your party support the establishment of green power schemes with statutory authority support? eg. Sustainable Energy Development Authority in NSW.	2	2	4	4	2
3. In Government will your party develop a comprehensive and public Greenhouse Strategy to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in the NT?	3	4	4	4	2
4. In Government will your party support research, development and establishment of renewable energy generation initiatives?	3	4	4	4	2
5. In Government will your party increase funding for public transport?	3	4	4	4	2
6. In Government will your party increase running hours and frequency of buses and extend services to the rural area?	2	2	4	4	2
7. In Government will your party encourage urban design to incorporate public transport and community nodes to minimise car reliance.	3	4	4	4	2
8. In Government will your party introduce registration rebates for vehicles powered by LPG?	2	2	4	4	2
9. In Government will your party extend recycling services and conduct a public investigation into actual recycling efforts of contracted companies?	2	2	4	4	2
10. In Government will your party establish a regional paper recycling facility?	0	0	4	4	2
11. In Government will your party commit to meeting and going beyond the 2% renewable energy target?	2	3	4	4	2



<b>Total for Waste Energy and Global Warming</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Tropical Savannas protection and Rangelands management</b>					
1. In Government will your party implement the National Principles and Guidelines for Rangeland Management ?	3	4	4	3	2
2. In Government will your party establish Territory-wide catchment management plans and strategies developed through thorough public consultation?	3	4	4	4	2
3. In Government will your party review all endorsed pasture grasses to assess weediness and withdraw those classified as ecological weeds from distribution?	2	4	4	4	2
4. In Government will your party audit all nursery and botanic gardens plant species to assess potential weediness ?	3	3	4	4	2
<b>Total for Rangelands Protection</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Protected areas, species, and habitats</b>					
1. In Government will your party support the Federal Government's Indigenous Protected Areas Program and the extension of the program to marine environments?	2	4	4	3	0
2. In Government will your party commit to further acquisitions for addition to the National Reserve System and Territory's National Parks Estate? (note: need not be too costly with Feds 2:1 funding for acquisitions.)	3	4	4	4	2
3. In Government will your party commit to developing a network of marine parks for the NT coastline?	3	4	4	4	2
4. In Government would your party ensure the maintenance of a minimum 100m native vegetation corridor along all creeks and seasonal watercourses against all incompatible uses including extractives?	2	3	4	4	2
5. In Government will your party support and fund voluntary conservation agreements on private or pastoral land? eg. land for wildlife, Trust for Nature-are good models that exist around Australia.	3	4	4	4	2
6. In Government will your party introduce specific legislation to protect threatened species and ecological communities, ensure public involvement in the process of listing threatened flora/fauna and communities and ensure that listings are assessed by an independent scientific committee?	2	4	4	4	2
7. In Government will your party introduce legislative protection for key marine and coastal habitat-eg. seagrass, mangroves, coastal rainforest, corals etc?	1	4	4	4	2
8. In Government will your party commit to funding new initiatives, programs and research on weeds/feral animals/marine pests control?	2	4	4	3	2
<b>Protected Areas Species/habitats total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Local and Regional Planning for ecologically sustainable development</b>					
1. In Government will your party overhaul the Planning Act to reflect well-voiced community concerns including rights to 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties to appeal decisions?	0	4	4	4	2
2. In Government will your party introduce landclearing controls for all land tenures? ie. all broadscale clearing subject to approvals process as currently happens with pastoral lands.	2	4	4	4	2
3. In Government would your party apply suitably prescriptive zoning schemes to acknowledge that certain land uses are incompatible and give rise to unacceptable land use conflicts: eg conservation and extractives; conservation and infrastructure such as arterial roads /intensive horticulture/ silviculture/ pastoralism / aquaculture; extractives and residential?	3	4	4	4	2
4. In Government will your party support clean, green industries, eg: assistance for organic producers?	2	4	4	4	2
5. In Government will your party commit to developing a coastal policy which integrates coastal management across all sectors in consultation with the community within your first term?	0	4	4	4	2
6. In Government will your party establishment a coastal unit/authority to coordinate coastal and marine management between departments?	2	0	4	4	2
7. In Government will your party establish building controls which enforce energy efficiency and materials sourcing standards?	1	0	4	3	2
8. In Government will your party ensure compulsory environmental assessment of all aquaculture proposals and prevent aquaculture operations	2	4	4	4	2



from discharging waste directly into the aquatic environment?					
9. In Government will your party introduce a mandatory rehabilitation bond for all aquaculture and mining developments?	2	4	4	4	2
10. In Government will your party provide resources for ongoing independent monitoring of environmental impacts of all mining operations including rehabilitation work?	2	1	4	4	2
11. In Government will your party develop and adopt an ecologically sustainable agriculture and horticulture policy?	2	4	4	4	2
12. In Government will your party undertake comprehensive water resource assessment and allocation plans for environmental flows, domestic and commercial use?	2	0	4	4	2
13. In Government will your party oppose any new uranium mines (including Jabiluka)?	0	2	4	4	0
14. In Government will your party ban mineral exploration and mining in all National Parks and conservation reserves?	0	2	4	2	0
<b>Local and Regional Planning for ecologically sustainable development</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Other</b>					
1. In Government will your party introduce comprehensive freedom-of-information legislation?	2	3	4	4	2
2. In Government will your party establish an Office of the Environmental Auditor / Environment Protection Agency?	0	2	4	4	2
3. In Government will your party enforce the existing Waste Management and Pollution Control Act?	3	4	4	4	2
4. In Government will your party oppose the growth or establishment of genetically modified crops in the NT?	2	1	4	3	2
5. In Government will your party adopt a government purchasing policy to minimise environmental impacts? eg. Govt departments to buy 100% post consumer waste recycled paper, Govt fleet cars converted to gas etc.	2	1	4	4	2
<b>Subtotal Other</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>CLP 86</b>	<b>ALP 131</b>	<b>SA 180</b>	<b>AD 173</b>	<b>PHON 84</b>