



**Clare Martin's
Government Team**

Top End Environment Highlights Package

*The Martin Labor Government – protecting our
unique environment*

Delivering results... more to do.



campaign 2005
Moving the Territory Ahead



Top End Environment Package

Protecting the Environment

Highlights of the Martin Government's Plan to Protect the Top End Environment

The Martin Labor Government believes we have one of the greatest environments in the world. Protecting our unique environment for current and future generations is a top priority.

Delivering on our promises ...

Protecting the environment

- ✓ Doubled environmental protection budget and more than tripled the number of environmental assessments
- ✓ Introduced compulsory public reporting of pollution emissions
- ✓ Introduced comprehensive native vegetation clearing controls – the toughest in Australia
- ✓ Banned nuclear waste dumping
- ✓ Comprehensive program to clean up Mt Todd
- ✓ Required Environmental Impact Statements for all major developments

Conservation for the future

- ✓ Taken the lead in the fight against cane toads – \$1.1 million for research, trap design, relocating sensitive species, and community education
- ✓ Protected 96% of Darwin Harbour mangroves and prohibited aquaculture in mangroves
- ✓ Established the Territory's first endangered species list
- ✓ Set up a plan for the integrated management of our natural resources

Supporting community action

- ✓ Established Environment and Litter and Recycling Grants
- ✓ Funded environment groups for the first time - the Environment Centre and Cool Communities
- ✓ Funded community action on cane toads through Frogwatch
- ✓ Introduced community planning processes for the Daly River and Darwin Harbour

Expanded conservation areas and world class parks

- ✓ Established joint management with Indigenous communities on most Territory parks
- ✓ More than 46,000 hectares rezoned for conservation in Darwin Harbour
- ✓ New Reserve at Channel Point
- ✓ Rapid Creek Conservation Corridor
- ✓ Gregory National Park expanded

Supporting sustainability

- ✓ Commissioned a climate change modelling study
- ✓ Funded sustainable housing initiatives
- ✓ Developed sustainable fisheries plans for species such as mudcrabs

... but there is more to do.



Over the next four years Labor will continue to protect the environment by:

- ✓ **Immediately establishing the NT's first Environmental Protection Agency**
- ✓ **Providing an extra \$3.5 million for Daly River Protection**
- ✓ **Upgrading facilities at Litchfield National Park \$7.5 million**
- ✓ **Introducing a new \$30 cane toad trap subsidy**

Conservation for the future

- **Protect more mangroves** along the coastline in addition to Darwin Harbour
- Introduce a **new 'Living Rivers'** program and legislation to give special status to the management of our icon rivers providing them with greater protection
- **\$3.5 million for Daly River protection** – no dams, no cotton, no new land clearing or subdivisions - moratoriums to stay until better monitoring systems in place
- Create the **Tackling Territory Invaders** program – with a priority to convene an expert scientific summit on exotic weed species to identify action required

Working together, supporting community action

- **Provide a new subsidy for the purchase of cane toad traps** - \$30 subsidy per household to help the fight against cane toads
- **Double funding to the Cool Communities Program**
- Create an **environment hub in Rapid Creek** attracting environmental groups and organisations by providing a rental subsidy for NGOs and a 'green office' refit

Better parks

- Create a **bigger, better world class parks system** by acquiring land, commencing comprehensive marine planning process and improving facilities including **\$7.5 million to upgrade facilities at Litchfield National Park**
- **Establish two more Indigenous and Marine Ranger Programs** in the Top End

Protecting the environment

- \$1.1 million and new legislation to immediately commence an **Environment Protection Agency** with an independent board, for better environmental controls
- Report on our environment with the NT's **first State of Our Environment Report**
- **Rewrite our major environment laws** with community input, enshrining the community's right to be heard and informed – **Water Act to be overhauled**
- **Minimise greenhouse gas emissions** with better fire management, land clearing controls and mandatory public reporting of emissions by major industries
- Develop an **air quality monitoring network**



Top End Environment Package

Environment Protection Agency

The Martin Labor Government protecting our unique environment

The Martin Labor Government believes we have one of the greatest environments in the world. Protecting our unique environment for current and future generations is a top priority.

Labor has expanded conservation areas, controlled land clearing and protected 96% of the mangroves in Darwin Harbour. We have introduced compulsory reporting of pollution emissions and required Environment Impact Statements for all major developments.

Under Labor the environment protection budget has doubled and we have more than tripled the number of environmental assessments, but there is more to do.

The Northern Territory is the only state or territory in Australia without an Environment Protection Agency (EPA). In February this year the Martin Labor Government announced that it would work to establish an EPA, bringing the Territory into line with the rest of Australia.

The Martin Labor Government will act immediately to set up the NT's first ever Environment Protection Agency for better environment controls.

A new EPA Board will be appointed and new legislation developed straight away. An extra \$1.1 million will be dedicated to support the Agency.

Establishing the EPA – consultation and new legislation

The Martin Labor Government will establish a strong EPA with the necessary resources and tools including the best environment protection laws in Australia. The EPA will assist developers and industry to understand and adhere to environmental regulations.

Stage one of the EPA will be the immediate reorganisation of the Office of Environment and Heritage, and the appointment of an independent, three member EPA Board. The Board will help Government undertake further community consultation on the final EPA model.

Stage two will see the EPA's budget increased. Eight new staff will boost capability by 40% in compliance, setting environmental standards, environmental monitoring, environmental planning and education.

Labor will overhaul existing environment protection laws, making them the best in Australia. The new Environment Protection and Management Act will establish the powers of the EPA and the EPA Board which will provide advice to Government.

We will produce the Territory's first State of the Environment Report to ensure that the EPA and the community have a thorough stock take of the health of our unique environment.

Resourcing the EPA

An additional \$1.1 million will be allocated to stage two of the EPA.



Top End Environment Package

Conserving the Daly

The Martin Labor Government protecting our unique environment

The Martin Labor Government believes we have one of the greatest environments in the world – protecting it is a top priority. Labor has expanded conservation areas, controlled land clearing and protected 96% of the mangroves in Darwin Harbour.

We are continuing to protect our unique environment and enhance our great Territory lifestyle, but there is more to do.

Conserving the unique ecological and cultural values of the Daly is vital for our environment, to maintain some of the best fishing in Australia and for tourism. The Martin Labor Government established a proper community planning process for the Daly, put in place a moratorium on land clearing and commissioned significant research. It has been a groundbreaking approach to our environment.

Labor will continue to act to protect the Daly - no cotton, no dams and no new land clearing or subdivisions. Our land clearing moratorium will remain until monitoring systems are in place.

Additional funding of \$3.5 million will enable land and water monitoring systems to be fully implemented.

More Research and Better Monitoring

The highest standards for water and land monitoring will be applied to the Daly. Funding of \$3.5 million will enable enhanced monitoring of water quality and water flows, new licensing arrangements and better compliance.

Protecting the Daly

The Martin Labor Government will continue to protect the Daly with no new subdivisions for mixed farming and the moratorium on land clearing to remain until monitoring systems are in place. The Water Act will be completely overhauled to meet world's best practice.

Community continues to have a say

The Daly will be managed as part of a new and innovative "Living Rivers" program. New legislation will give special status to our icon rivers, for the benefit of all users. The community will continue to have input through the community Advisory Board.

Funding

The Martin Labor Government will provide \$3.5 million to properly monitor environmental standards and support the operation of the Daly River Advisory Board.



Top End Environment Package

Rapid Creek Environment Hub

The Martin Labor Government protecting our unique environment

The Martin Labor Government believes we have one of the greatest environments in the world.

Under Labor the environmental protection budget has doubled and we have more than tripled the number of environmental assessments. We have introduced compulsory reporting of pollution emissions and required Environment Impact Statements for all major developments. Labor has expanded conservation areas, controlled land clearing and protected 96% of Darwin Harbour mangroves.

Protecting our unique environment is a priority for the Labor Government.

The Martin Labor Government is working with Territorians to ensure our unique environment is protected for current and future generations. We have introduced the Environment Grants with \$1 million each year going to community groups to support recycling and grassroots environment projects. Labor is backing Territorians who want to help our unique environment.

For the first time, the Martin Labor Government has funded community groups such as Cool Communities, to help Territory families reduce their household greenhouse gas emissions.

We've taken the lead in the fight against cane toads, with \$1.1 million for research, trap design, relocating sensitive species and community education through Frogwatch. Together, there is much more we can do to help our environment.

The Labor Government will establish an Environment Hub in Rapid Creek.

The Rapid Creek Environment Hub

The Martin Labor Government will create an Environment Hub in Rapid Creek. Community environment groups will be offered free office space and co-located, providing a one stop environment shop. A "green office" fit-out will showcase ways to reduce waste and save energy and water in the office.

Organisations will be offered assistance with costs of moving.

Co-locating to the hub will enable environment groups to more easily work together, share resources and be more accessible to the community. The Rapid Creek Environment Hub will be great for our environment and further support our community.

Funding

The Martin Labor Government will provide \$120,000 initially, beginning in 2006-07 and then \$90,000 ongoing funding each year.

