



## CHIEF MINISTER

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Dear Mayor

Thank you for your recent correspondence to Mr Steve Asher, Territory Labor's candidate for the 2020 Northern Territory Election. As leader of Territory Labor I am pleased to respond to the Litchfield Council and community.

We are currently experiencing a once-in-a-century crisis that has hit every corner of the world. The Northern Territory is not immune. My Government has saved lives and livelihoods because of our hard borders. If coronavirus was let loose in the Territory, more jobs would have been lost and people would have died.

The CLP's open borders policy would have been a disaster – destroying lives and destroying jobs - the impact on remote communities is unthinkable.

We are throwing the kitchen sink at saving jobs – including the Small Business Survival Fund, the Home Improvement Scheme, Immediate Works Grants, cutting payroll and power bills, and tourism vouchers for locals. Treasury modelling shows our actions have helped save nearly 7000 Territorian jobs during this crisis.

We have a plan to protect jobs. The CLP will cut jobs, just like they did last time when they sacked hundreds of Territory workers.

In response to Council's Strategic Focus please find Territory Labor's response on the following pages.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL GUNNER

14 AUG 2020



### **Freds Pass Sports and Recreation Reserve Funding**

Territory Labor invested \$5 million into upgrades at Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve in this term.

Upgrades include: new cricket club change rooms and viewing platform, upgrades to equestrian facilities, improvements to the road network, a sealed carpark for soccer and rugby union and certification works for various buildings.

The upgrades have been delivered in partnership with Litchfield Council to ensure the funding supported community priorities and aligned to the Reserve's Masterplan.

Given the impact on the Territory budget of our critical COVID-19 response aimed at keeping Territorians safe and supporting jobs, implementing further Masterplan priorities will be considered in future budget deliberations.

### **Economic Drive through Improved Library Services**

Territory Labor is supportive of Litchfield Council relocating library services to improve community access, and will consider funding opportunities through appropriate Government grants.

### **Community and Business Hub**

Territory Labor will continue to support Litchfield Council to explore options to develop a Community and Business Hub, and will consider funding opportunities through Local Government grants.

### **Regional Waste Management**

The Territory Labor Government want to see our environment and lifestyle protected for future generations. We have ensured a robust, clear and transparent set of rules, regulations and guidelines are in place to protect our environment.

The Territory Labor Government share community concerns about the environmental impacts of rubbish. We have been working with other governments to address this problem across Australia and progress is being made.

The Territory Labor Government endorsed the National Waste Action Plan and will continue to fund the implementation of priority actions in the Territory. The Northern Territory agrees to contribute to an improved national waste tracking system to be established by the Commonwealth, and along with other Environment Ministers, agreed that 100% of Australian packaging will be recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025 or earlier, under the National Waste Policy: Action Plan. A number of projects are in progress.

Recent policy developments at the national level, including a ban on certain waste exports, have created a new demand for Australia to manage waste products; creating new opportunities for the commercialisation of waste in Australia.

Importantly, new and emerging technologies now enable the repurpose of waste in new ways, for example, recycling glass, plastics or tyres to utilise the recycled products in construction.

Territory Labor will implement Stage 2 reforms of the *Environment Protection Act 2019* to improve the Territory's management of waste and pollution, and will continue to work with all stakeholders to investigate and capture the new opportunities in this emerging space.

### **Water Security Plan**

Only Labor can be trusted with the Territory's water. Under Labor, water for people - and ensuring environmental and cultural flows - comes first.

Territory Labor will continue to protect our environment and safeguard our water for future generations.

If re-elected, Labor will continue to invest more on water and work with all communities, including the Litchfield community, to develop a long-term Water Strategy that prioritises water for drinking, growing and making valuable products.

The Territory Labor Government has strengthened the *Water Act 1992* and will deliver the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan; the Territory's first long-term comprehensive approach to sustainably manage our water resources.

Our Government has:

- reformed the *Water Act 1992* to protect people and communities by making water use more sustainable and ensuring the mining and petroleum industry now have to apply for water licenses;
- reinstated the Aboriginal Water Reserves Policy to ensure water is reserved for Aboriginal economic development;
- re-established the Water Advisory Committee to ensure water allocation and management meets community expectations; and
- developed a number of Water Allocation Plans across the Territory.

The public also have more access to information online that helps increase the transparency of water use.

### **Mira Square Community Facilities**

Territory Labor is supportive of exploring options for Litchfield Council and the Southport Progress Association to develop a portion of Mira Square for community use.

### **Private Roads Maintenance**

Territory Labor will continue to deliver a roads program of more than \$600 million across the Territory, including maintenance of government owned roads. We will work with Litchfield Council on road safety matters, where appropriate.

### **INPEX Sporting Facilities**

Given the uncertainty associated with managing the COVID-19 pandemic, it is unclear at this stage how long the Territory Government will need the former INPEX Village for the purposes of mandatory supervised quarantine. However, a re-elected Labor Government will consider submissions from both the public and commercial parties along with the Advisory Committee's findings to determine the longer term use of the site to ensure the asset delivers a sound outcome for both the Territory and local community. We will ensure consultation includes the Litchfield Council.