

Letters



Fishing plan vital

FURTHER to Gary Shipway's article in the Sunday Territorian, the NT Fisheries are currently pushing a mismanagement plan for the Northern Territory Spanish mackerel fishery.

There has never been a total stock assessment or biomass survey conducted in the fishery, which stretches from border to border.

A TAC (total allowable catch) system is currently in place, of 450 tonnes. This is shared between; commercial, recreational Indigenous, charter and research sectors.

NT Fisheries are pushing for an ITQ system (individual transferable quota) based solely on catch history in the TAC, with no regard to real stock levels.

This is sustainable fishing and best practice which NT Fisheries have as their goal? How about some transparency as Michael O'Brien from ABS is asking in Gary's report.

RG Samuel

First past the post wins

FINALLY, two weeks after the NT election, the results are known.

It begs the question – is it time to go back to the 'first past the post' system?

When the UK considered adopting the preferential voting system, a promised referendum held in 2011 saw British voters resoundingly reject it – 13,013,123 votes to 6,152,607 votes.

Prior to the referendum, a British expert pointed out serious flaws with the preferential voting system, explaining why it was no fairer than 'first past the post'. Ironically, one of those flaws reared its ugly head in the 2013 Australian federal election that left voters outraged when Ricky Lee Muir, who stood for the Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party, won a Senate seat with just 0.5 per cent of the primary vote.

I suspect most voters would support a return to 'first past the post' elections.

Mervyn, Leanyer

Libraries are a success

RE: Library system falling (24/08/20). It is not. I go to the public library almost every day at Casuarina and often later at Darwin. The library staff I have found to be extremely helpful and nice – always willing to help people inside a library.

If the author of the letter published 24/08/20 bothered to go to one of the four public libraries they could have asked about the “children’s programs”. They would have been given a four-page brochure outlying the programs: Baby Book Time, Toddler Time, Rhyme Time, Preschool Story Time, and Family Time.

Page 2 and 3 outline the details of the programs and on page 4 it has a timetable of the programs.

The libraries are currently also closing off half their computers and chairs so sometimes you have to wait or book ahead.

I suggest angry mum next time you go to a library for a children’s program you meet some like-minded friends and create your own library fun time.

Librarians are not child educators, they are there to help all people visiting a library.

Cait, Marrara

Housing shortfall

THE NT Housing Department says there is a shortfall of 8000 to 12,000 social and affordable homes over the next five years. The first priority for the Housing Minister must be to ask his or her department executives for a clear plan to address the shortfall.

Currently there isn’t one. The second priority should be to head to Canberra to land a fairer deal for the Territory on homelessness funding.

Receiving 1.3 per cent of total funding provided to all states and territories when we have 12 times the problem is a rip-off which must be rectified.

Peter McMillan, NT Shelter

Cross about crossings

IN the world of traffic management there are numerous standards and guidelines for the adoption of scramble crossings.

In these easily obtained documents, there are very clear required numbers of vehicles and pedestrians that should be present for the scramble crossings (pictured) to reduce the wait times and possible accidents. If you do not have these required minimum numbers, then the wait times and accident possibilities go up, rather than down.

The Australian "Traffic Management Guideline for Traffic Signals" provides the guideline that minimum required numbers are 200 pedestrians and 400 turning vehicles in a four-hour period and the crossing roadway may not be the main arterial. The question now is: "Who is the person that is installing scramble crossings ignoring the standards for doing it?"

Why are more of these time-wasting crossings turning up in Darwin where there is absolutely no need for this type of installation?

Can someone with brains at council find out where the people responsible these crossing came from, and send them back?

Ed Leibrick, Jingili