

# Hawker Britton

*Government Relations Strategy*

**24 August 2020**

## **Northern Territory Election, Policy Brief**

On Saturday August 22 the Northern Territory legislative election was held.

With over half of the electorate opting to vote early, high absentee and post votes and many three-, four- and five- way races, official counting is still ongoing in key seats. Hawker Britton will provide a seat-by-seat break down and an incoming ministerial brief once this process is complete.

However, on current projections the Northern Territory looks to have retained a Territory Labor Government, led by Chief Minister Michael Gunner.

In much of the Territory, this election was a three-horse race between Territory Labor, the Country Liberal Party and the start-up Territory Alliance.

Labor ran on the promise of maintaining its strong COVID health response and recovery – driven by a strong policy on the Territory borders. The CLP focused on crime and poor economic indicators. Territory Alliance offered voters a belief in ‘doing politics differently,’ policies on medicinal cannabis and vaping and a ‘flip-flop’ position on supporting then banning fracking.

As the returned Government, Territory Labor is poised to implement the following policies.

### **Saving Lives. Saving Jobs.**

Territory Labor ran a campaign based off having a strong health response to the global COVID-19 pandemic in order to have a strong economic response. Chief Minister Michael Gunner’s campaign messages highlighted his decision to close the borders swiftly to ‘put Territorians first’. These health decisions resulted in making the Northern Territory the ‘safest place in Australia’ and that the work ahead was to keep delivering for jobs in the Territory by ‘sticking together’ to ‘stay the course’. All policies flowed from this central message, in contrast to CLP messages earlier in the pandemic opposing the border closure.

### **Territory Labor Economic Policies**

- Small Business Survival Fund
- Home Improvement Scheme, Business Improvement Grants
- Immediate Works Grants
- Attracting major projects like the Ship Lift
- Job-creating infrastructure
- Upgrades to every school
- Investment in renewables
- Strong Buy Local Rules

### **Resources, Mining and Petroleum**

- Net zero emissions target by 2050.
- Continue to support the Resourcing the Territory initiative (\$26 million over four years 2018 to 2022) to incentivise drilling and prospecting.

- Implement the remaining Recommendations from the Independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory to ensure risks associated with an emerging onshore petroleum industry are minimised.
- Ensure regulatory regime for the mining industry is a risk based, transparent, robust and fair regime that provides certainty to business and industry to encourage and promote investment in prospective and existing projects. This will include delivering Stage 2 of the environmental regulatory reform program by incorporating the Mining Management Act 2001 and the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998 into the new Environmental Protection Act 2019.
- Support all prospective projects, including the 'Five Mines' in central Australia.
- Implement the Recommendations from the Northern Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission's First Report as they relate to the resources industry.
- Collaborate with industry to encourage and promote investment in manufacturing and associated industries that leverage the Territory's resources.
- Strengthen Aboriginal partnerships and enhance sustainable Aboriginal economic development, including providing employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal Territorians.
- Develop and implement innovative strategies to reduce and manage climate change-related risk to drive low-carbon and energy efficient economic growth.

#### Tourism and Hospitality

- Investing \$10 million into two further rounds of Territory Tourism vouchers - Round 2 will open on 1 November 2020 and Round 3 will open on 1 February 2021. This will be supported by ongoing marketing to encourage Territorians to travel locally.
- Investing \$5 million into a marketing fund to ensure we are well positioned to attract visitors from interstate when the time is right and drive visitation over the low season.
- Delivering on Regional Destination Plans for Big Rivers, Barkly, Alice Springs, Lasseter, Darwin and surrounds to guide future investment and economic opportunity.
- Deliver Aboriginal Tourism Strategy, working with the Federal Government, which has also identified cultural tourism as a priority.
- Revising Tourism 2030 Strategy to take into account the impacts of COVID-19.
- Developing a new Drive Market Strategy to support visitors throughout regions year-round.
- Continuing to roll out \$136 million investment to support the Jabiru Masterplan and work with the Federal Government to see its investment in Kakadu fast-tracked.
- Continue to lobby the Federal Government to work closely with Traditional Owners and the Mutitjulu community to ensure a sustainable future for the Yulara region.
- Delivering the National Aboriginal Art Gallery at Anzac Precinct in the Alice Springs CBD.

#### **Territory Labor policies on Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

- Youth offenders will undertake community work sentences, and adults who recruit kids to commit offences will face up to 10 years imprisonment under new measures.
- Clear and Immediate consequences: including the establishment of a community work program that will see offenders cleaning graffiti and clearing weeds and landscaping.'
- Establishment of Community Accountability Boards: comprised of businesses, elders and the community to have their say on offender consequences and community expectations.

#### The continuation of:

- Work Camps and Boot Camps – 3 more boot and work camps on country, run by Aboriginal leaders, will operate at 7 Emus and B18 in the Top End, and the Barkly Work Camp.
- Victim Offender Conferencing – facing victims and the impact of crimes.

- Back on Track programs for repeat offenders – treatment, skills development and change behaviour programs, education, and training work for offenders.
- Back on Track programs for young people 8 to 13 years. who commit high level anti-social behaviour and are at risk of future offending.
- 65 Youth Outreach and Engagement Officers, including after hours.
- After Hours youth services/ programs in all regional centres.
- Bail Accommodation Support Services in Darwin and Alice Springs.
- Youth Crime Prevention Plans for hot spot youth crime areas – including Palmerston and Alice Springs, Northern Suburbs of Darwin and Tennant Creek.
- New youth detention centre for Darwin and refurbished Alice Springs Detention Centre.
- Reintroduced and expanded school based constables.

### **Territory Labor policy on Health and Hospitals**

- An additional 20 hospital beds will become available at Royal Darwin Hospital following the opening of a new ward at the Palmerston Regional Hospital.
- An eight-bed 48-hour care surgical service will commence at Palmerston Regional Hospital, freeing up capacity at Royal Darwin Hospital, meaning more efficient care for emergency surgery patients. These short-stay surgical beds will see ear, nose, throat (ENT), urology and gynaecology procedures performed at Palmerston for the first time.

### **Territory Labor Aboriginal Policy**

- Continue to fund capital grants and land management and conservation grants for Aboriginal Ranger Groups and Aboriginal organisations.
- ‘Families as First Teachers’ program in 57 regional communities at an expense of \$5.6 million. Aiming to establish school attendance and preparedness as a norm.
- Continue work towards a treaty.

### **Further Information**

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant, Queensland and Northern Territory Director, [Elliot Stein](mailto:Elliot.Stein@hawkerbritton.com) on +61 431 744 115 and [estein@hawkerbritton.com](mailto:estein@hawkerbritton.com) or the Queensland and Northern Territory Policy and Business Analyst Corbin Duncan on [cduncan@hawkerbritton.com](mailto:cduncan@hawkerbritton.com)