

NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTION

BY NANNETTE HOLLIDAY

Saturday, 22 August is decision day in the Northern Territory.

While voting in the NT Legislative Assembly general election is compulsory for all Territory residents over 18 years of age, a few things have changed due to covid-19.

To ensure a safe election for all Territorians, the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) have a covid-19 management plan, which includes:

- More mobile and early voting centres
- A postal voting awareness campaign
- Strict social distancing, single-use pencils and hand sanitiser at all voting centres.

Mobile and early voting centres will operate from 10-21 August.

Mobile voting teams provide services for people who are unable to attend a voting centre, including those in aged care facilities, hospital, prison or living in remote communities.

NTEC remote voting teams will visit nearly 180 locations this year.

NT elections are held every four years under preferential voting, where you rank candidates in order of preference.

Unlike federal elections, NT ballot papers include a photo of the candidate, making it easier for voters to make their choice.

The three main political parties recognised in the Territory are the Labor Party (ALP) led by Chief Minister Michael Gunner, the Country Liberal Party (CLP) led by Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro and the new Territory Alliance (TA) led by a former CLP Chief Minister Terry Mills.

The incumbent ALP government are attempting to win a second four-year term.

Officially eight NT parties are registered with NTEC — Animal Justice Party, ALP, Ban Fracking Fix Crime Protest Water (formerly Territory Party), CLP, Federation Party Northern Territory (formerly Country Alliance), NT Greens Inc, Shooters and Fishers Party, and TA.

The Territory's 1,420,000 square kilometres has 25 Legislative Assembly seats with an average of 5,555 electors in each division. Two new divisions created since 2016 are Gwoja, incorporating Stuart, and Mulka, incorporating Nhulunbuy.

As of 9 June, 139,516 Territorians were enrolled to vote, 3,000 more than for the 2016 election.

It's estimated that approximately

25,000 eligible Territorians are not enrolled, with 16,000 considered to be Aboriginal Territorians.

To encourage people to enrol, the NTEC has produced advertisements in English and eight Aboriginal languages.

Enrolment registration closes at 5pm on 31 July 2020.

To check your enrolment details, the electoral boundaries, change your address or request a postal vote online visit www.ntec.net.gov.au or call NTEC on 1800 698 683.

A full list of all candidates will not be available until nominations close on 6 August.

For up-to-date information check the website www.ntvotes2020 up to 22 August election day and afterwards for the results. **TQ**



MICHAEL GUNNER

CHIEF MINISTER AND LABOR MEMBER FOR FANNIE BAY

Chief Minister Michael Gunner has barely given a thought to the Northern Territory election in August.

And that's because he has been putting all his energy into a matter of life and death – the coronavirus pandemic.

It is widely recognised that his strict regime – closing borders, compulsory quarantine, shutting down business – has saved lives.

The Territory recorded only a handful of cases and no deaths.

Territory Government aid packages saved many businesses from going to the wall.

“I haven't had much time to think about the election,” says Michael. “But I'm certainly not complacent about it – be complacent about winning an election and you're out the door.”

“All our decisions have been about the pandemic, not the election. We threw the kitchen sink at trying to handle the pandemic.”

The Labor Chief Minister is defending his inner Darwin seat of Fannie Bay on 22 August.

He says handling the covid-19 crisis was “traumatic”.

“We had to take some tough decisions. We had logical, rational grounds for those decisions but I knew business people and their workers would be hurt.”

Michael says the harm done to small business particularly pained him – but the alternative was putting lives at risk.

“The hardest decision was shutting down every business with hardly any notice. I felt particularly upset for restaurants because their profit margins are so slim anyway.”

Michael's empathy with small business comes from his childhood in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

His parents were small business owners and he remembers how hard

they worked and the constant worries about money.

His family fell on hard times when he was still at school and he remembers “couch hopping” in the homes of relatives and family in Tennant Creek.

“I remember one Christmas we had nothing. The church came around unannounced and gave us a hamper of food. It made an enormous difference to us and I have never forgotten that kindness.”

One benefit of the pandemic is the strong relationship built up between the Chief Minister and Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

“We always got on well behind the scenes – our relationship has grown stronger during this crisis and is now more public.”

Michael supports continuing the video-conferencing national cabinet employed during the pandemic.

He says the Prime Minister, state premiers and chief ministers have shown they can all work towards the same aims in the national interest.

The Chief Minister says the Territory will need a strong, experienced Government after the election to lead the reconstruction of the economy.

“We need to do the basic things, the fundamentals, the hard work and then the goals will come.”

He says most elections have two elements: time for a change or stick with what you've got.

“There's a very strong argument for sticking with Labor.”

Michael is optimistic about the Territory's future, especially as so many projects are underway, including:

- \$300 million ship lift, which will support the creation of a marine industry
- \$100 million Charles Darwin University campus, which will help rejuvenate Darwin city centre

- \$200 million luxury Waterfront hotel, which will boost tourism and be attractive to business leaders

- Terabit Territory, which will make the NT a leader in communication and an attractive home for data storage

- Sun Cable's billion-dollar solar farm near Tennant Creek

- NASA rocket launch pad near Nhulunbuy

- \$1.5 billion Sea Dragon prawn farm

- a string of mines, including the lithium project just south of Darwin

- the rejuvenation of Alice Springs CBD

- a multi-billion-dollar home-building initiative in remote communities

- the Tennant Creek to Mt Isa railway

“The Territory has got superb fundamentals for a strong economy,” the Chief Minister says. “We need to work hard to create jobs, which will attract more people here.”

“We need to diversify our economy and show that the Territory is a good place for a low-emission manufacturing industry.”

“We need to increase our wealth so that we have the means to prosper and close the Indigenous gap.”

Michael has had great joy amid the pain of making what he calls “gut-wrenching decisions” about the coronavirus pandemic – his wife Kristy gave birth to their first child, a boy named Hudson.

“Looking after a child is hard work but so rewarding. When Hudson finally goes to sleep, I say ‘thank heavens’ – and the next minute I'm looking at photos of him. I miss him already and he's only having a sleep.”

“Kids take over your life. And they're such a delight.” **TQ**



TRACEY HAYES

CLP CANDIDATE FOR FANNIE BAY

PHOTO: STEVE STRIKE

**ECONOMIC REFORM,
URGENT BUDGET
REPAIR AND ROLLING
UP MY SLEEVES WILL
ABSORB MY EVERY
WAKING HOUR. THAT
IS MY PROMISE TO
TERRITORIANS**

Tracey Hayes was the first female chief executive of the Territory's cattle industry, named one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence, owned and ran a successful small business and is the mother of four children who are sixth-generation Territorians.

Now she is running against Chief Minister Michael Gunner in the Darwin seat of Fannie Bay at the Northern Territory election on 22 August.

What makes her think she can win?

"Fannie Bay is my home and it's important to me to represent my community," she says. "I was only ever going to run in Fannie Bay.

"I'd also been considering my career options — two corporate CEO roles, both interstate or politics. As a family, we discussed packing up and leaving

the Territory, but the Territory is in our blood, and we had to stay and fight for its future."

She chose the CLP because she considers herself a centrist.

"I support small business, families building their futures together and industry underpinning the economy with minimal red tape. I'm a fierce advocate for the Territory and optimistic about its future."

The ALP has held the seat of Fannie Bay since 1995 and Tracey strongly believes it's time for a change.

"Too much is at stake to sit back and let things deteriorate further without rolling up our sleeves and having a go at making a positive contribution."

The economy is always an issue in any election, but for the Northern Territory in 2020 it could be a significant factor.

"The staggering mismanagement, lack of fiscal discipline and inept leadership takes my breath away. >



NT VOTES 2020

- Early voting opens 10 August -

DAY	DATE	TIME	
1	Thursday 30 July	-	Issue of the writ / nominations open
2	Friday 31 July	5pm	Electoral roll closes
8	Thursday 6 August	12noon	Nominations close
		TBC	Declaration of nominations and draw for position on ballot paper/s
12	Monday 10 August	TBC	Early, mobile and postal voting commences
20	Tuesday 18 August	5pm	Postal mail-out ceases to overseas addresses
22	Thursday 20 August	5pm	Postal mail-out ceases to Australian addresses
23	Friday 21 August	6pm	Early voting ceases
24	Saturday 22 August	8am-6pm	Election day
37	Friday 4 September	12noon	Deadline for receipt of postal votes
40	Monday 7 September	TBC	Declaration of election results
	TBC	TBC	Return of the writ

“As the prospective future Treasurer for the Northern Territory, economic reform, urgent budget repair and rolling up my sleeves will absorb my every waking hour. That is my promise to Territorians.”

Tracey says her lifetime working in business and industry is another major strength.

She says she’ll approach policy and decision making through the lens of a leader that has had to manage a budget with discipline, make hard and unpopular decisions, and understand the importance of relationships at a grassroots, national and international level.

From a pastoral background, Tracey is proud of the role women play.

“They are the backbone of the industry, and as more and more women step up from management roles at a grassroots level to the board room and the Legislative Assembly, the future is exciting.

“Women have largely been an untapped resource in leadership and senior decision making, and I am optimistic about our future with more women involved at the table.” **TQ**



TRACEY HAYES WITH FAMILY AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, GLOBAL EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS GRADUATION, DECEMBER 2019

Find out more at ntvotes2020.com.au



Source: ntec.nt.gov.au/elections/2020-territory-election/timetable

PAUL KIRBY

LABOR MEMBER FOR PORT DARWIN

Paul Kirby believes an experienced, hardworking Labor team will be needed to rebuild the Northern Territory after the coronavirus crisis.

The Minister for Primary Industry and Resources says the economy was showing signs of improving when the pandemic struck.

“Businesses were telling me that they were expecting the best dry season they had enjoyed for a long time.”

Paul believes that the Labor Government deserves to be re-elected because it has worked hard and well to drag the economy out of recession – a downturn that began three years before Labor took office.

“If Territorians stick with us they know we will fulfil our promises to them,” he says. “We offer experience and stability – we have a good, stable Cabinet under Michael Gunner.”

He says many major projects are just getting underway.

For instance, global resources company Newmont is showing faith in the Territory’s future by investing \$1 billion in the Tanami gold mine.

And the Minister is confident Santos will invest billions of dollars in the Territory over the next decade by backfilling its gas supply and building another production train at the Darwin LNG plant.

He believes this will enable the Territory to create a manufacturing hub, fuelled by gas and, increasingly, by renewable energy.

And the \$400 million ship lift at East Arm will help create a marine industry.

“Labor is creating jobs and working towards diversifying the economy so that the NT can stand on its own feet.”

He says “we need to do better” in helping mining companies through the often complicated procedures to operate without lowering environmental protection standards.

Paul, who is the ALP Member for the seat of Port Darwin, which includes the city centre, says the Government, working closely with the City of Darwin, has done much to improve his constituency.

The key initiative is the \$200 million Darwin City Deal, which includes major capital works for cooling and greening the CBD, creating event and festival spaces, and promoting a more family friendly environment within the CBD.

There are also several large infrastructure projects such as \$10 million on improvements to Cullen Bay and the redevelopment of State and Civic squares.

“Business people tell me that they’ve been listened to and been treated better by this Labor government than they have under conservative governments.”

Paul prides himself on being accessible.

“People can always get hold of me. I’m always willing to do my best to help.”

He is an electrician by trade and moved to the NT from South Australia to work for the Power and Water Corporation.

Paul showed his commitment to his Port Darwin constituency in the most romantic of ways – he got married to Bek Garrett in the Old Town Hall Ruins and held the reception on the Esplanade.

The couple have a three-year-old daughter, Layla. **TQ**

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PAUL KIRBY AND
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TOBY GEORGE

CLP CANDIDATE FOR PORT DARWIN

MY HEART IS IN THE TERRITORY, IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE – IT IS MY HOME

Toby George is more than a qualified project manager and contract administrator – he’s passionate about business investment and growing the Northern Territory again, like when he was growing up.

He says his roles in the public and private sector and infrastructure projects across the Territory and Kimberley over the past 17 years make him qualified to develop suitable solutions for getting the NT’s economy moving.

“I’ve supported companies in navigating the maze of Government

regulations required for investing in the Territory. I know what needs to change – and it’s not the attitudes of the business sector,” says Toby.

“People are lining up to put money into our economy – but with so much political indecision and uncertainty investors turn away, or it leads to compromises that fail to recognise the full potential of what’s on offer.”

With more than \$20 billion in Defence spending committed in the NT over the next 20 years, making sure that NT businesses are the first through the door in bidding for contracts is something that Toby believes is vital.

“For my children and everyone else to have a future here, we need to learn from past mistakes.

“INPEX was great, but our failure to capture it properly has put us here – with falling GDP, falling property prices and families leaving to seek out opportunities elsewhere.”

Toby, who was born in Royal Darwin Hospital 39 years ago, is the CLP candidate for Port Darwin in the Territory’s election on 22 August.

He has worked in Canberra for the team responsible for ensuring that John Howard’s commitment to reporting on the flow of carbon through Australia’s landscape was fulfilled.

“An experience that exposed me to the machinations of the Federal Government.”

Over the past three years in Katherine, he’s overseen the delivery of the largest Defence spend on infrastructure since the Second World War.

“My heart is in the Territory, it always has been and always will be – it is my home.

“My family support me 100 per cent on this endeavour. It’s critical, particularly if one aspires to be in politics for the long haul.”

He says the Territory in the eighties was a wonderful place to grow up.

“It’s the greatest place on earth to raise a family. It gave me a sense of adventure, appreciation for the environment and a resilient but relaxed and friendly approach to life.

“That’s why I decided it was time to stand up and contribute further. With my voice in a strong CLP Government, Territorians can be assured, we will improve the state of the Territory economy, create job opportunities and get the Budget back on track.” **TQ**



TOBY AND HIS TWO CHILDREN, HENRY AND EMILY



TOBY AND HIS LEAD PROJECT TEAM AT THE \$1.4B DEFENCE NACC PROJECT SITE



TOBY GEORGE AND HIS WIFE ANNABEL

KYLIE BONANNI

CLP CANDIDATE FOR FONG LIM

Politics was the furthest thing from Kylie Bonanni's mind when growing up.

But after years of community work and within the family building business, she threw her hat in the Alice Springs Town Council by-election ring in 2013 – and won.

It was on the council that she realised her passion and commitment to helping the Territory grow.

“Territorians work hard and don’t give up – only here can people easily start afresh and achieve great things.”

Kylie, who was born in Ballarat in 1970, moved to Alice Springs when she was 18.

Her parents moved to the Red Centre when her father got a job at the Granites gold mine.

“I intended to save some money and then find work on the glorious Queensland islands, but I fell in love – with Alice Springs and my future husband.”

Kylie resigned as deputy mayor in 2015 when her mother needed extra care.

Her mum lives with her in the granny flat connected to her home in Bayview, Darwin.

Kylie is standing as the CLP’s candidate for Fong Lim in the NT election on 22 August.

Her three children, Tessa, 30, Gemma, 25 and Jacob, 23, are her biggest supporters.

“Having a grown family also ensures I have the time and commitment to the Fong Lim constituents.”

She believes her many years within the building industry, as a board member for Tourism NT and vast networks will ensure her ambition to see the Territory prosper as it did for her family back in the eighties will become reality. **TQ**



MARK MONAGHAN AT WORK ... HAS A BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF THE ECONOMY

MARK MONAGHAN

LABOR CANDIDATE FOR FONG LIM

Mark Monaghan believes in working hard to nurture the conditions for business owners to create wealth, jobs and training opportunities for Territorians.

But he also believes that nobody should be left behind.

Mark is the Labor candidate for the inner Darwin seat of Fong Lim in the Territory election.

He has empathy with small owners in particular – his dad ran a stone masonry business.

“I know how many hours small business people put in to survive. I admire that.”

The former teacher also understands the need for Territorians to be given the opportunity to improve themselves.

“I have a great desire for social justice,” he says.

Mark was born in Glasgow and emigrated to Tasmania with his family when he was nine.

“I know that families can do it tough. My father struggled, as many Glaswegian men did, with alcoholism.

“However, he endeavoured to cope with his addiction for the sake of his family,

which quickly expanded when my mother had five kids within five years.

“Mum told my dad one day, ‘It’s the bottle or your kids’. He chose the kids and never touched a drop of grog again.”

Mark, who was only the second member of his family to go to university, has had a fascinating career.

He was the assistant principal of a school in Hobart until he decided he no longer wanted to wear a double-breasted suit to work and took a job on the Tiwi Islands in 1996.

“The Tiwi are a great people.”

He met his born-and-bred Territorian wife Michelle in the NT.

They have been together for 25 years and have three children, Bernard, Grace and Riane.

After three years on Bathurst Island, Mark spent a year as mentor and cultural adviser during the making of the hit movie *Yolgnu Boy*.

This was followed by senior education jobs at Urapunga in the Roper region, Groote Eylandt and Jabiru.

He then became head of Engineers Australia in Darwin and later NT manager of engineering company Pritchard Francis.

Mark’s background has given him a broad understanding of business, particularly engineering, oil, gas, renewable energy and the mining sector.

He is standing for Parliament because he believes he has something to contribute to the Territory.

“I was brought up in a family that believed if you could do something for your community, you should just do it.

“The coronavirus pandemic means that we’ll face tough economic times. We need an experienced Labor team to manage the economy. But we also need a Labor team rejuvenated with new members.”

Mark believes that the Territory’s vast energy resources should be harnessed to create downstream jobs and training opportunities to attract manufacturing sectors in the NT.

“I want to help make the economic pie bigger so that we can all prosper and families have a future for their kids to enjoy the aspects of the Territory that brought me to my home 25 years ago.”

TQ