



# Community Survey 2020

An attitudinal survey of people who love our coasts and fishing lifestyle



# 68%

visit our coasts at least  
once a week

# 90%

are concerned about the  
future of Top End coasts

# 72%

said the health of Top End  
coasts are in decline

# 81%

said pollution was the  
biggest threat to the health  
of our coasts

# 83%

said healthy coasts are vital  
to protect the Top End's  
marine life and outdoor  
lifestyle

# 74%

said government should do  
more to protect our coasts

## Summary of findings

The Top End community is passionate about our coasts and know them better than anyone. We surveyed Territorians to determine their attitudes and views on the health of our coasts. Our 2020 community survey found that:

- Territorians love their coasts and they are central to the Top End lifestyle.
- People reported that fishing in the Territory is amazing, but not as good as it used to be.
- Those surveyed are concerned about the future of our Top End coasts and believe the health of our coasts is in decline.
- The vast majority of people surveyed want government to do more to keep our coasts healthy.

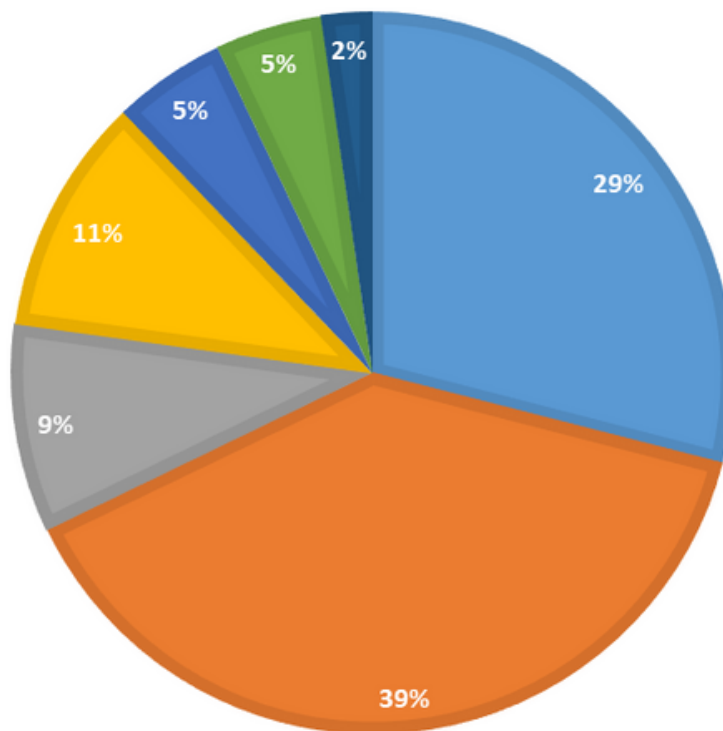
A summary of the survey is provided in this report.



## COASTS ARE CENTRAL TO THE TOP END LIFESTYLE

Our coasts provide a beautiful backdrop to the lives of Territorians. 68% reported that they visit our coasts and rivers at least once per week.

■ Every day ■ Weekly ■ Fortnightly ■ Monthly ■ Every 6 months ■ Once a year ■ Less than once a year



“Our coasts are a very important place for migratory bird species and turtle nests” – Supporter from Driver.

“Our coasts support the economy in many ways. Without the natural environment of our coasts [we have] no economy”  
– Supporter from Karama.

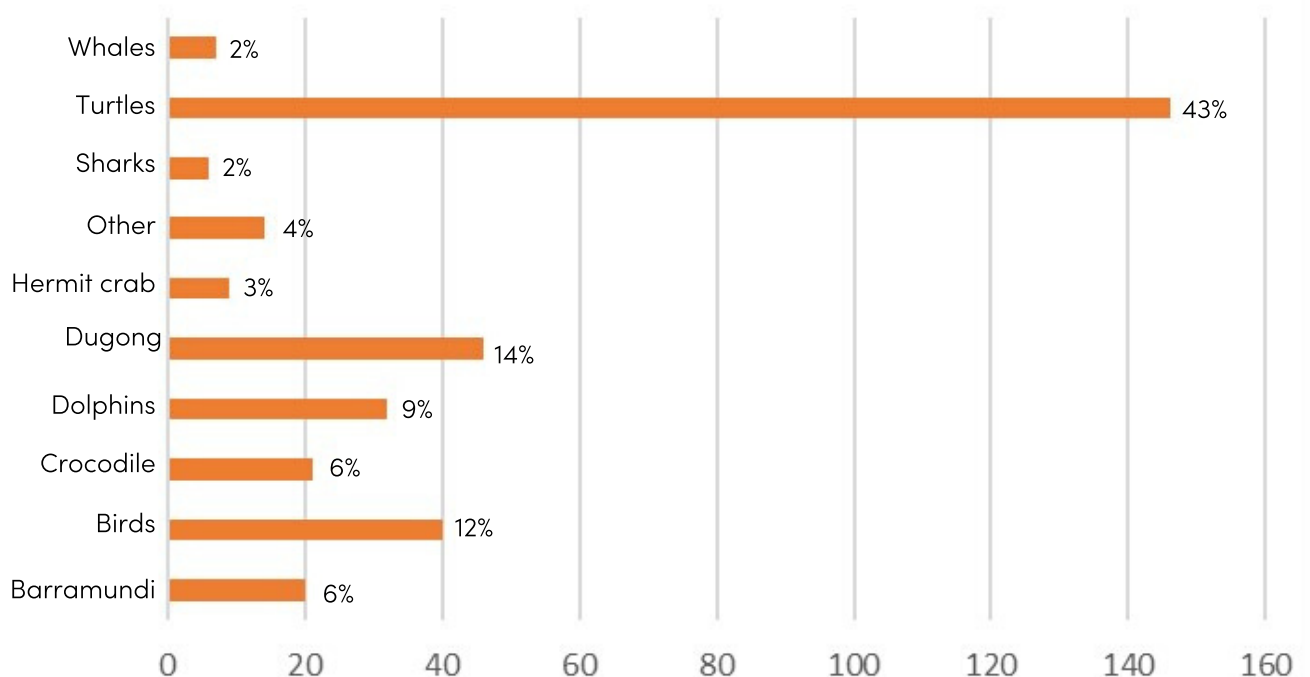
“They are simply beautiful” – Supporter from Durack.

“Our coasts are a reminder of our wild precious planet and our deep connections to it” – Supporter from Wagait Beach.



## TERRITORIANS LOVE TURTLES

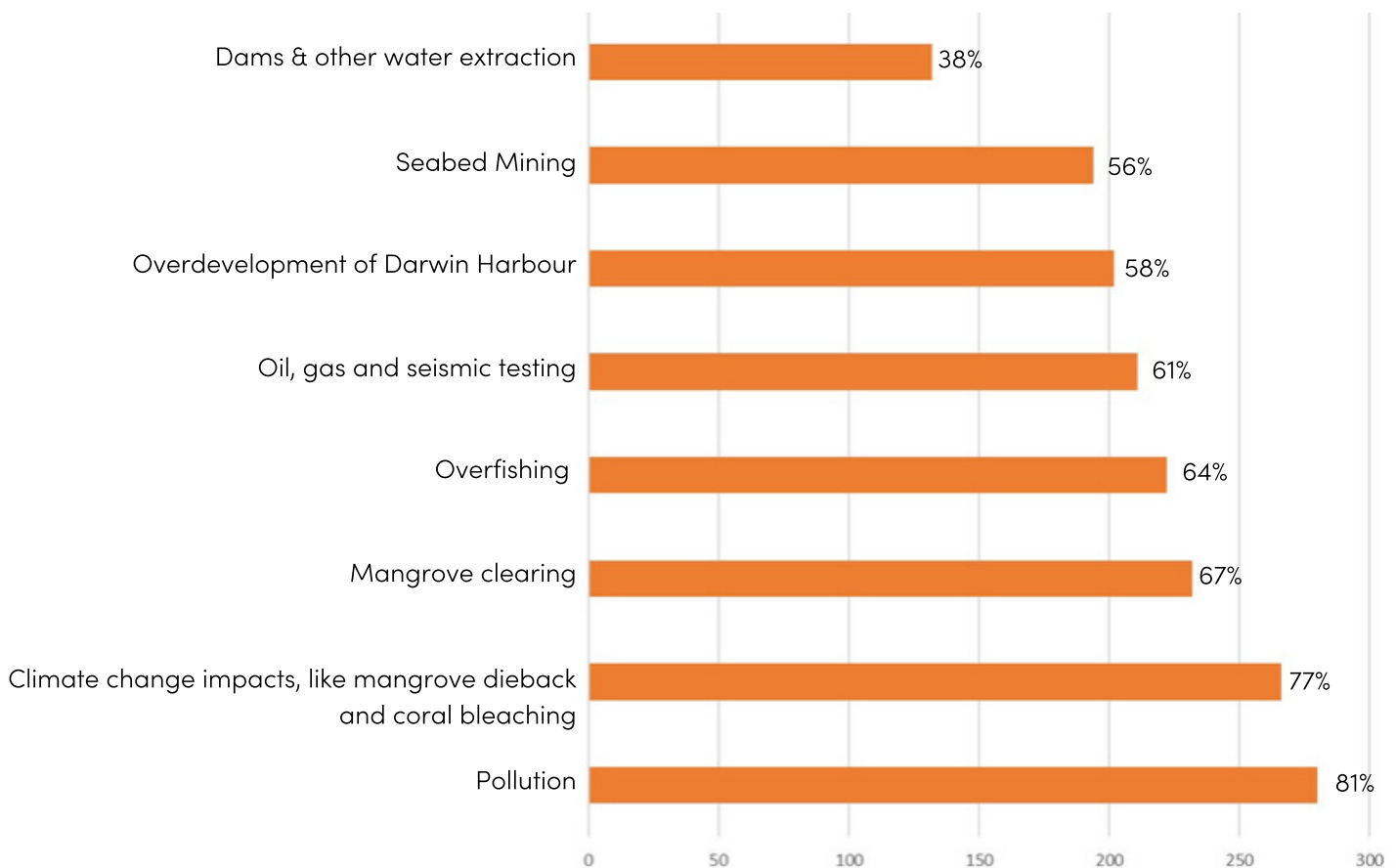
Our Top End coasts are wild, diverse and unique – home to six of the world’s seven sea turtles, migrating whales, the recently-identified snubfin dolphin, the unique dugong and the endangered sawfish. Territorians love the diversity of species that call the Top End home, but turtles are the clear favourite. 43% of people who did our survey said that turtles were their favourite coastal animal.



## SIGNS OF DECLINE

Our Top End lifestyle and many people's livelihoods are connected to the health of our coasts. But, many of our supporters have witnessed signs of decline. They say our fishing is amazing, but not as good as it used to be.

The people surveyed are concerned about a broad range of threats to the health of our coasts including pollution, climate change, mangrove clearing and overfishing.



## TERRITORIANS THINK THE HEALTH OF OUR COASTS ARE IN DECLINE

**72%**

said they were in decline

**22%**

said they were unsure

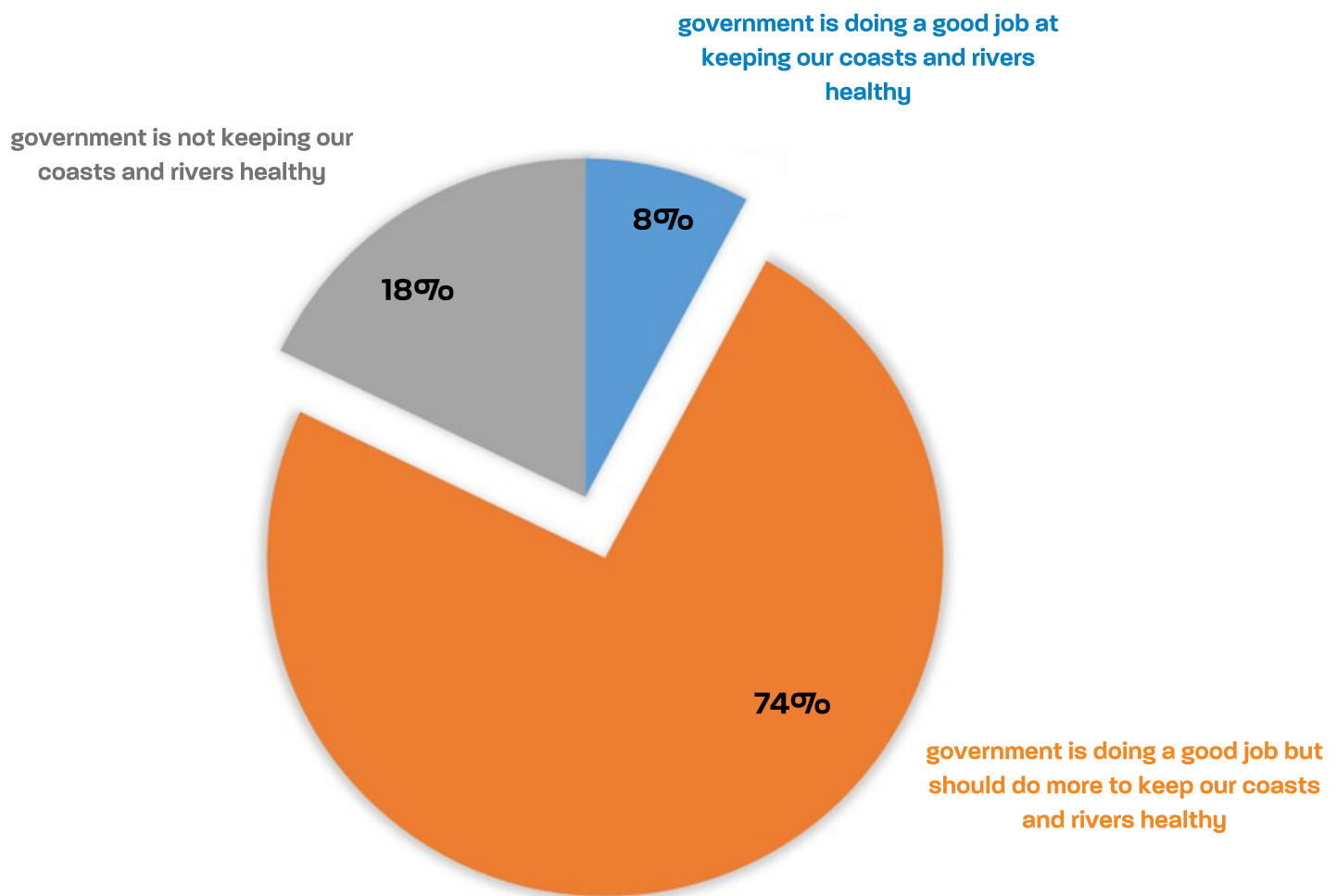
**6%**

said they were not in decline



## TERRITORIANS WANT GOVERNMENT TO DO MORE FOR OUR COASTS

90% of people said they are concerned about the future of our Top End Coasts, and 72% believe that their health is in decline. When asked whether the government is doing enough to protect our coasts the overwhelming majority said government is doing a good job but should do more (74%).



## TERRITORIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COASTS

**90%**

said they were  
concerned

**8%**

said they were  
unsure

**2%**

said they were not  
concerned



344 Territorians did  
the survey



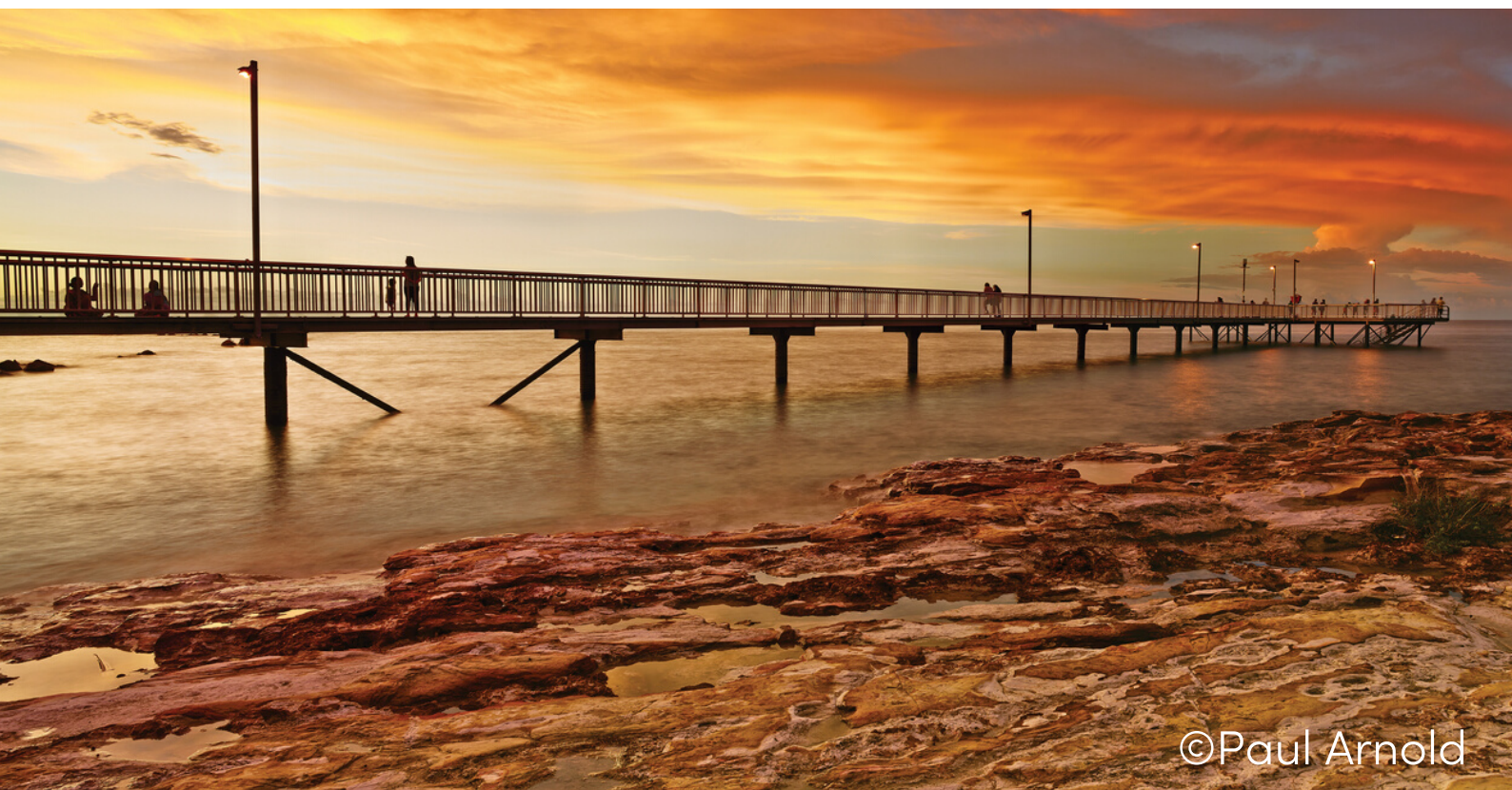
47%

of people who did  
our survey have lived  
in the Territory for  
over 20 years



28% of people said  
coastal walking was  
their favourite way to  
enjoy Top End coasts

Done as an electorate breakdown, survey respondents mostly came from Nightcliff; Fannie Bay; Johnston; Wanguri; Port Darwin; and Fong Lim.



©Paul Arnold

Methodology: This survey was distributed by Keep Top End Coast Healthy (KTECH) through Facebook advertising, targeting NT residents, as well as via email to KTECH supporters.

# **A lifestyle worth protecting**

**[www.topendcoasts.org.au](http://www.topendcoasts.org.au)**



Authorised by Adele Pedder, Australian Marine  
Conservation Society, 3/98 Woods St Darwin NT 0800