

# FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES 2017-18

Tourism and transport are critical pillars of the Australian economy. While significant investment has been made by the Australian Government in new tourism initiatives and public transport infrastructure, the Tourism & Transport Forum Australia believes that the 2017-18 Federal Budget must address **six key areas** to ensure that Australia doesn't fall behind in an increasingly competitive global market.

## 1 MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR TOURISM AUSTRALIA



Funding for Tourism Australia must be maintained over the forward estimates period to ensure Australia remains a destination of choice for international visitors.

## 2 ESTABLISH A BIDDING FUND FOR BUSINESS EVENTS



Establish a \$10 million National Business Events Bid Fund to support the business events and conferences industry secure additional international events.

## 3 INVEST IN CRITICAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



Provide funding certainty for major transport projects, including Cross River Rail in Brisbane, high-speed rail between Western Sydney Airport and the Sydney CBD, and a rail link between Melbourne and Melbourne Airport.

## 4 IMPROVE VISA COMPETITIVENESS



Increase funding for visa processing, to improve the competitiveness of visitor and working holiday visas and investigate the potential for a single visa with New Zealand for key source markets.

## 5 SUPPORT ROLL OUT OF WI-FI AT KEY DESTINATIONS



Provide funding to deliver free high-speed Wi-Fi to ensure visitors are able to remain 'connected' when visiting Australia's iconic cities and tourist destinations.

## 6 COMMENCE IMMIGRATION PRE-CLEARANCE TRIAL



In tandem with border management technology, an immigration pre-clearance program should be trialed on trans-Tasman routes, enabling passengers to perform entry formalities at origin destinations.

### THE VISITOR ECONOMY IS CRITICAL TO AUSTRALIA\*:

- Tourism consumption in Australia totalled \$130 billion in 2015-16
- Tourism's direct contribution to Australian GDP is \$53 billion – 3.2 per cent of the Australian economy
- Tourism and visitor expenditure directly supports 580,200 Australians – 4.8 per cent of the total workforce

\*Source – Tourism Research Australia, Tourism Satellite Accounts

TTF's full 2017-18 Federal Budget Submission *Future Economy Future Jobs* can be accessed [here](http://www.ttf.org.au)