

2016-17 NT Budget Review

Tuesday, 24 May 2016

TTF'S NT BUDGET AGENDA

FUTURE ECONOMY FUTURE JOBS

In the lead up to the NT Budget, TTF released a comprehensive [submission](#) outlining key budgetary and policy recommendations related to tourism, transport and aviation.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Grow Demand for Travel

- Increase funding for Tourism NT by an additional \$5 million for 2016-17 and allocate it to demand-generating activity, such as cooperative marketing initiatives
- Support the NT Convention Bureau in attracting strategic international markets

2. Boost investment in tourism infrastructure

- Maintain funding for Tourism NT infrastructure grants in real terms for 2016-17
- Investigate opportunities to work with the private sector to develop new tourism products in and around nature-based precincts
- Allocate funding to support delivery of the NT Cruise Sector Activation Plan 2015-2020

3. Improve the visitor transport experience

- Allocate funding for maintenance and upgrades to key tourism gateway roads
- Invest in public transport services from Darwin and Alice Springs to key tourist destinations
- Increase funding to support delivery of the NT Aviation Industry and Services Strategy 2020

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Northern Territory Country Liberals Government have delivered a very positive Budget for both tourism and transport in 2016-17, especially in the face of revenue declines.

The Government has listened to TTF and provided an additional \$8 million in funding for Tourism NT, invested in the development of nature-based visitor demand-driving infrastructure, including \$20 million for two skywalk experiences, and has delivered a significant transport and road infrastructure program across the Territory.

This Budget puts the Territory in good stead to tackle the challenges of a declining resources boom and support the industries – such as tourism – which will provide its future economic growth.

KEY BUDGET FACTS AT A GLANCE

	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Revised	2016-17 Budget	2017-18 Forecast	2018-19 Forecast	2019-20 Forecast
Surplus (deficit) (\$ million)	(57)	(153)	(794)	(413)	(148)	(12)
Real Gross State Product (%)	10.5	2.1	1.5	5.0	4.1	3.8
Unemployment (%)	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.7

VISITOR ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT BUDGET MEASURES

BUDGET MEASURE	ANALYSIS
GROWING DEMAND FOR TRAVEL	
Tourism marketing	<p>Additional \$8 million</p> <p>Continuation of an additional \$8 million for another year for domestic and international marketing activity, including support for additional airline services, bringing total Tourism NT funding to market the Territory as a holiday destination to \$29 million.</p> <p>\$1 million marketing activity has been allocated to specifically target working holidaymakers and backpackers.</p> <p>\$1.5 million has been allocated for ongoing tourism sponsorship with key sporting and consumer brands.</p> <p>The highly successful Million Dollar Fish campaign will return in 2016-17, with \$500,000 allocated, and is set to attract more tourists to the Territory.</p> <p>TTF advocated for additional funding for Tourism NT in its NT Budget submission.</p>
Business Events	<p>\$2 million in 2016-17</p> <p>This will go towards marketing and promoting the Territory as a business events destination and continue the NT Business Events Ambassadors program.</p>
Arts and Cultural Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250,000 in 2016-17 to deliver the key outcomes of the Arts and Cultural Policy • \$1 million for the NT Arts Grants program • \$500,000 support for the screen industry sector • \$1 million for the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT • \$1 million in 2016-17 for a planning study for Aboriginal cultural centres, including convening a steering committee to look at establishing a heritage hub in Alice Springs • \$2.9 million to implement the 3-year NT Heritage Enhancement Plan

BOOSTING INVESTMENT IN VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund	<p>Additional \$5 million in 2016-17</p> <p>This will go towards capital works grants as part of the Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund.</p>
Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund	<p>\$10 million for third round of grants program</p> <p>Given the success of the first two rounds of this grants program, the Government will be funding another round of Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund grants.</p> <p>A total of \$10 million will be made available to local government, local businesses and Aboriginal Corporations to create sustainable local jobs and local economic opportunities for Territorians. The grant funding is available for infrastructure works as well as feasibility studies and design works.</p> <p>A total of \$20 million worth of grants has already been allocated under the first two rounds of this grant program.</p>
Tourism Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.97 million to develop visitor amenities at the Alcoota fossil site. Preliminary consultation has begun with traditional owners • \$1.33 million over two years to develop more mountain bike trails across the Territory and help grow this niche tourism market
Wi-Fi	<p>\$500,000 in 2016-17</p> <p>This will go towards the continuation of free Wi-Fi rollout at key tourism attractions across the Northern Territory. This initiative commenced in last year's budget and was accompanied by \$500,000 in 2015-16.</p>
Skywalks	<p>\$20 million for two skywalk experiences in Territory parks</p> <p>Concept plans have already been revealed for a 300m glass "skywalk" and pedestrian bridge at Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park. The Nitmiluk aerial experience would operate year round, with Wet Season access via the existing jet boat operation.</p> <p>Consultation will begin with traditional owners and stakeholders in Central Australia to identify a second potential site.</p>

INVESTING IN TRANSPORT

Transport Infrastructure	<p>\$589.6 million in 2016-17, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$16 million over two years to improve the Arnhem Link Road. • \$10 million, including \$5 million from the City of Darwin, for stage 1 of the Barneson Boulevard Link. This will improve safety and reduce traffic delays at major intersections and merging lanes. • \$4 million to upgrade Rocky Creek Crossing on Fog Bay Road to improve road safety, increase flood immunity and provide community development. This is the last major crossing to be upgraded on Fog Bay Road.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6 million on the Stuart Highway to upgrade the Pinelands access to the industrial precinct. • \$5.9 million funding to continue to seal selected sections of Lajamanu Road – Kalkarindji. • \$5 million to upgrade and seal various sections of Gunn Point Road. This will provide improved access to a number of popular recreational fishing destinations within close proximity to Darwin, Palmerston and surrounding suburbs. • \$27 million to upgrade Pirlangimpi Road to sealed standard from Port Melville to Yapilika Forestry Centre Intersection. • \$34.5 million for bridges on the Victoria Highway (Little and Big Horse bridges). • \$3 million in new funding to continue sealing the Tamani Road. • Maryvale Road will receive \$16.5 million over two years to continue upgrading and sealing works. • \$2 million for Wadeye Barge Landing upgrade. • Red Centre way and Litchfield loop road • \$250,000 ongoing to upgrade the Point Stuart Road • \$1 million to upgrade the Corroboree Billabong access road
Tourism Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$23 million to continue works to complete the sealing of the Mereenie Inner Loop of the Red Centre Way tourist drive • \$14.2 million to continue works to complete the sealing of Litchfield Park Road
Cullen Bay Access	<p>\$8 million</p> <p>This will see the dredging of Cullen Bay, greatly improving larger vessel access and other commercial vessels operating out of Cullen Bay.</p>
Regional Aviation Access Program	<p>\$4.25 million</p> <p>The RAAP is jointly funded by the Territory Government and Commonwealth Government. The NT Government maintains 70 remote aerodromes under the Transport Assets program including 50 on Aboriginal land. Six priority projects have been selected for additional upgrades in 2016-17. The work will be supplemented by a number of smaller projects to be undertaken through the Transport Assets Minor New Works Program.</p>