

# NORTHERN TERRITORY BUDGET PRIORITIES 2017-18

Tourism and transport are critical pillars to the Northern Territory economy. Tourism in particular has the potential to become a super-growth industry in the NT provided the right investments are made. The Tourism & Transport Forum Australia recommends that the 2017-18 Budget address **six key areas** to ensure that the NT can capitalise on domestic and international tourism growth and remain a great place to live.

## 1 INCREASE DESTINATION MARKETING



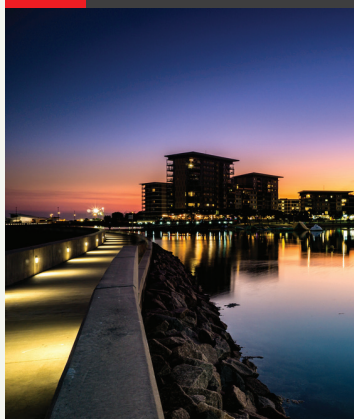
Increase Tourism NT's base funding by a minimum of \$8 million per annum as public expenditure on tourism promotion delivers jobs and growth and will stimulate domestic and international visitation to the NT.

## 2 INCREASE FUNDING FOR BUSINESS EVENTS



Increase funding to support the Northern Territory Convention Bureau attract strategic international conventions and conferences and to support regional areas secure additional business events.

## 3 INVEST IN TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE



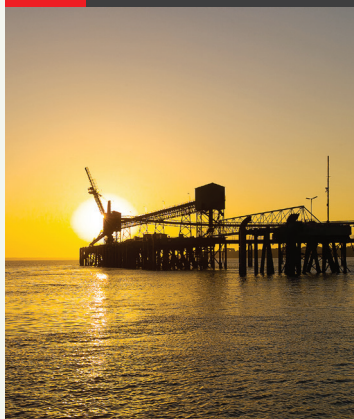
Support critical tourism infrastructure by maintaining funding for Tourism NT infrastructure grants and continue to support free publicly available Wi-Fi in key tourist precincts.

## 4 SUPPORT CULTURAL AND NATURE-BASED TOURISM



Provide increased funding for the NT Parks & Wildlife Commission to support indigenous partnerships, cultural, heritage and nature-based tourism and to encourage regional tourism dispersal.

## 5 BUILD CRUISE SHIP CAPACITY



Allocate funding to support the delivery of the NT Cruise Sector Activation Plan and the development of infrastructure surrounding the Port of Darwin to grow the NT cruise ship market.

## 6 IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



Invest in additional public transport services from Darwin and Alice Springs to key tourist destinations, and expand the existing Darwin bus network to cater for future population growth.

### KEY STATISTICS:

- Tourism directly contributes \$976 million to the NT economy
- Tourism directly employs 8,000 people in the NT
- International visitor expenditure fell \$12 million between 2015 and 2016
- Domestic visitor expenditure increased \$587 million between 2015 and 2016