

TTF ACT BUDGET SUBMISSION 2021

IMPORTANCE OF VISITOR ECONOMY TO ACT

Tourism, transport and aviation are sectors critical to the ACT economy and TTF welcomes the opportunity to highlight the key priorities for these sectors for consideration within the 2021 ACT Budget.

Pre-COVID, the tourism directly and indirectly employed around 11,000 people, contributed around \$2.5 billion in Gross State Product (GSP) and was pressing ahead with key public transport projects like the Canberra Light Rail.



11,000 tourism jobs

Total sector employment
pre COVID-19



\$2.5 billion

in gross state product
pre COVID-19



6.6+ million

light rail passenger trips since
construction pre COVID-19

As the devastating impacts of COVID continue to be felt across neighbouring jurisdictions, the ACT will continue to be impacted particularly with respect to inbound interstate travel.

The ACT Government must continue to work closely with the private sector to implement a range of COVID safe tourism practices including harnessing the latest contactless technology and improving key infrastructure to make the ACT and nearby destinations even easier and safer to visit and move around in, for both locals and visitors alike.

WIDER NATIONAL SITUATION

The nation's tourism industry is losing a massive \$5.8 billion from July of this year. On top of this is the \$3.4 billion lost international spend per month from July together totalling \$9.2 billion in total lost visitor spend across domestic and international markets each month as a result of current lockdowns and border restrictions. This is putting another 150,000 sector jobs at risk.

With Sydney in its seventh week of lockdown – and no chance of restrictions being eased until the end of August, Brisbane having extended its lockdown, and Victoria re-entering lockdown, the tourism sector nationally is in crisis.

The sector is reeling having lost the critical Sydney and Melbourne markets for the July school holiday period – the third peak holiday period in a row decimated by a lockdown in one or more parts of the country - and with the threat of a similar occurrence during the September break looking increasingly concerning, all of which will impact the ACT.

The losses continue to mount at a rapid pace with almost \$7 billion wiped off tourism spend over the December/January peak holiday period, another \$1.8 billion over the Easter School Holidays and the July winter school holidays decimated to the tune of \$6.3 billion.



ACT SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL RESTORATION OF JOBKEEPER

1

As such amongst other key state measures, TTF is calling for the ACT to advocate for the Federal Government to re-introduce the successful JobKeeper program which will enable the sector to survive ongoing uncertainty.

JobKeeper provided a lifeline for tourism and other industries throughout last year and early 2021 as it was simple to administer and allowed tourism employees to remain firmly connected to their businesses until greater economic certainty returned.

TTF is seeking the reinstatement of the JobKeeper program for the next six months as confidence in travel remains at an all-time low and won't bounce back immediately when lockdowns end.

This support is particularly important for the international visitor exposed parts of our industry which have effectively been in lockdown for sixteen months with no end yet in sight and for a domestic market which continues to be decimated by these extended lockdowns and border restrictions.

OTHER ACT RECOMMENDATIONS

2

Sustainable funding for Visit Canberra of at least **\$20 million annually over four years** to reboot domestic tourism over the short term and international tourism over the longer term once restrictions are lifted.

3

ACT to work within National Cabinet to continue progressing and maintaining a **uniform approach to domestic borders to enable uniform cross border travel once national circumstances allow** to restore travel confidence.

4

A **fast tracking of public transport, road and infrastructure projects** like the extension of the Canberra Light Rail, together with the Federal Government to drive economic recovery and create jobs across the ACT in the wake of neighbouring lockdowns and border restrictions.

5

Additional support to encourage **visitation to nearby national parks and cultural tourism institutions** such as Namadji National Park and the major national landmark attractions, when appropriate in the wake of neighbouring lockdowns and border restrictions.

6

Additional ChooseCBR **travel vouchers to stimulate sector and increase demand**, modelled on the South Australian Great State Vouchers and building on the NSW Dine and Discover voucher system.

7

Additional support on top of the **up to \$75,000 in rebates for** company bills like water, as part of the existing and helpful targeted funding package to support the sector which has been hard hit by border closures.



TTF REPRESENTS THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND THE WIDER TOURISM AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

