



Marion Scrymgour

MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

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New Tour Operator Permits System for Territory Parks

A new permit system for commercial tour operations in Territory managed Parks and Reserves is set to be introduced on April 1 this year.

Environment Minister Marion Scrymgour said the new permits aim to ensure tour operators operate safely in all Territory parks and reserves, and is the first step to lifting the professionalism of the industry.

“This tour operator permit system will provide benefits to tour operators, tourists and Territorians,” Ms Scrymgour said.

Ms Scrymgour said the new system will ensure that tour operations meet the expectations and standards required by park management. She added that it will also ensure that tour operators have the necessary licenses, insurance and operational plans in place to deliver a quality product.

“It will work towards ensuring the highest quality and safest visitor experience possible,” she said.

Ms Scrymgour said that the NT Government had worked closely with the tourism industry on the development of the system.

She said a training and accreditation component to enhance the professional development of commercial tour operators and their guides will gradually be incorporated.

“This will include on-line guide training, formal recognition of competencies for existing guides and incentives to encourage voluntary accreditation of tour operators, ensuring the highest quality and safest visitor experiences possible.

The need for a Permit System was identified and funds were provided by the NT Tourist Commission to develop the system with input from the local tourism industry.

Tours operating on NT Government parks and reserves do not currently require permits, specific training or accreditation, however tours operating on Commonwealth land and in other states must obtain a permit.

Ms Scrymgour said the permits would be offered free for the first 12 months of operation before charging fees to cover administrative costs.

“This new system will bring the Territory into line with the rest of Australia, and should work to enhance everyone’s visitor experience on our parks.” **Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746**