

# Record \$60M Tourism Spending to drive Growth and Jobs

The Martin Government has committed more than \$60 million into tourism infrastructure because, in the Territory, tourism means jobs – lots of them.

Budget 2004 contains a massive \$60 million investment in tourism infrastructure, to drive growth and local jobs, in addition to the recent \$27.5 million increase in tourism funding, over a three year period.

## \$60 million infrastructure package

The \$60 million tourism infrastructure package over three years, with \$22.7 million in 04-05, includes:

- \$38 million to seal the Mereenie Loop Road over three years, with \$10 million in 04-05.
- \$15 million to seal the Litchfield Loop Road over three years, with \$4.5 million in 04-05.
- \$2.5 million for a new cruise ship terminal at Fort Hill Wharf.
- \$500 000 for improvements to roadside rests and safety signage.
- \$500 000 for headworks for the Katherine Cultural Precinct.
- \$500 000 for Gregory National Park to construct pedestrian access to the river, boat ramp, toilet facilities, up to 25 new car parks, and a boat jetty and disabled access.
- \$575 000 for Limmen National Park including new facilities like camping areas, a viewing platform, toilet facilities and a boat ramp, at the Southern Lost City, Butterfly Springs and the Towns River crossing
- \$390 000 to upgrade facilities at the Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park, including a new guide presentation area and car park lighting in Alice Springs, and a new 'bat chat' area entrance, upgrading an interpretative display and installing hand rails at the Territory Wildlife Park.
- \$1 million for minor new works to upgrade visitor facilities in Territory parks.
- \$1.3 million for maintenance of Darwin's George Brown Botanic Gardens.

## \$27.5 million boost for marketing continues

\$27.5 million for marketing and tourism development over three years to attract more visitors, with \$13.5 million in 04-05 including:

- \$7.5 million for increased interstate and international marketing of the Territory.
- \$2.5 million for tourism development, including Indigenous culture, and nature based and heritage infrastructure investment.
- \$2 million for local organisations to provide visitor information services and regional marketing activities.
- \$1.5 million for Indigenous, nature, heritage and drive activities across the Territory.

