



Northern Territory

BUDGET 2004

Moving the Territory ahead... **less tax, more jobs, great lifestyle**

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Clare Martin

Minister for Tourism

18 May 2004

TOURISM INVESTMENT TO DRIVE GROWTH AND CREATE JOBS

The Martin Labor Government will spend more than \$60 million on tourism infrastructure to generate more jobs for Territorians in Budget 2004.

This money comes in addition to the \$27.5 million boost for tourism late last year, meaning more than \$90 million will be spent on tourism infrastructure, marketing and development over three years. And this figure does not include other funding for NTTC marketing and development of approximately \$15 million in 2004/05.

“My Government is committed to driving tourism growth over the coming years and funding key infrastructure is critical to our long-term plans to put Territory tourism first,” Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Clare Martin said.

“This budget will see significant tourism spending that will create jobs, facilitate new business ventures, attract more tourists to the Territory and help provide them with a memorable experience.”

Highlights of the tourism infrastructure package driving growth and jobs include:

- \$38 million to seal the Mereenie Loop Road over 3 years, with \$10 m in 04/05
- \$15 million to seal the Litchfield Loop Road over 3 years, with \$4.5 m 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 head works 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 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 Darwin’s George Brown Botanic Gardens

Ms Martin said the Territory was a great place for a holiday and a fantastic asset to market to the world.

“Last year’s \$27.5 million increase in tourism funding over three years for marketing and development, which was the largest ever boost for Territory tourism, will create 950 more jobs for Territorians and inject \$218 million into the economy,” she said.



Ms Martin said that of the \$27.5 million, \$10 million would be included in 2004/05 with:

- \$7.5m for increased interstate and international marketing of the Territory
- \$2.5m for tourism development

“Budget 2004 will see even more jobs being generated directly by this infrastructure spend and indirectly through increased private investment and increased tourist numbers,” she said.

Ms Martin said that the 2004/05 funding will continue to build on the tourism success with cruise ships, the Ghan and increased flight numbers and airline interest in the Territory.

“In just over two years we’ve seen Virgin commence Darwin and Alice Springs services, Australian Airlines and Skywest begin flights while Jetstar is expected to commence flights into Darwin,” she said.

“Importantly, the 2004/05 budget will deliver an additional \$1 million to progress work in attracting new aviation services to the Territory.

“We are allocating funding to ensure the work to attract more flights continues, and we continue to build our national and - importantly - international air links.

“The type of activity we will undertake includes a priority for international cooperative marketing campaigns with airlines and one-off campaigns.”