

CLARE MARTIN
CHIEF MINISTER
MINISTER FOR TOURISM

3 May 2005

BACKING TERRITORY TOURISM

Budget 2005 backs the Territory's tourism industry with spending on infrastructure, marketing and grants funding, Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism Clare Martin announced today.

"Tourism provides local jobs, backs local business and gives Territorians the chance to gain important skills," Ms Martin said.

"Government is continuing to invest heavily in this vital Territory industry, which directly employs around 7500 Territorians and thousands of others indirectly. It injects around \$1.16 billion into the local economy."

BETTER TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

Budget 2005 continues the Martin Government's strong investment in tourism infrastructure.

"Work is continuing on the \$43 million project to seal the Mereenie Loop Road and the \$15 million project to seal the Litchfield Loop Road," Ms Martin said.

Other highlights in Budget 2005 include:

- \$7.5 million over three years to improve visitor facilities at Litchfield Park – the Top End's playground
- \$1 million to improve facilities at MacDonnell Ranges further developing the ranges as a major national and international icon
- \$3.8 million over the next four years to improve facilities at the Hidden Valley Raceway, including \$900,000 to improve V8 Supercars facilities – a major contributor to the local tourism industry and the local economy
- \$2 million over four years for recreational fishing infrastructure
- \$1.2 million extra recurrent funding for management of Territory parks, including the new Channel Point recreation reserve
- \$400,000 for ranger facilities at Channel Point Reserve to support expanded recreational fishing opportunities

MARKETING THE TERRITORY

Budget 2005 includes a total \$28.9 million for tourism marketing communications and development.

This includes part of the additional \$27.5 million injected into tourism marketing by the Martin Government over three years, starting in 2003-04.



Budget 2005 Highlights include:

- \$2.5 million on Destination campaign development
- \$2.2 million on Destination marketing of Territory regions
- \$1 million on aviation development

SUPPORTING LOCAL TOURISM INITIATIVES

Budget 2005 delivers a further \$500,000 for the Territory Tourism Development fund, following \$500,000 provided in Budget 2004.

Of this, \$300,000 will be allocated to wayside inns and \$200,000 to small local projects.

The first round of grants include:

- \$92,000 for the Three Ways Roadhouse
- \$36,300 for Glen Helen Resort Ablution Block
- \$20,680 for Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation Interpretation
- \$15,000 for Munupi Arts and Crafts Information Area
- \$30,000 for Deckchair Cinema Projection upgrade
- \$40,000 for Olive Pink Botanic Gardens seating and track upgrade

A second round of grants is currently being assessed with more funds to be released in August 2005.

MORE FUNDS FOR ROADSIDE RESTS

A further \$500,000 will be injected into roadside rest areas and safety signage in Budget 2005, following \$500,000 allocated in Budget 2004.

Planned improvements include:

- \$80,000 for WA Border/Keep River turnoff
- \$80,000 for Adelaide River
- \$80,000 for Bonney Well
- \$80,000 for Newcastle Waters/Elliot
- \$80,000 for Tyler's Pass
- \$20,000 for Borroloola
- \$70,000 for South Australia and Queensland border

“Our unique lifestyle and pristine environment makes the Territory a great place to live and visit,” Ms Martin said.

“Government is backing our tourism industry and local business by further enhancing our many attractions and encouraging more interstate and overseas visitors here.”

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