

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Yan to the Minister for Parks and Rangers:

NTG Operated National Park Fees

Background:

From July 2022 the NTG will introduce an entry fee to NTG Operated National Parks. The NTG has released a Future Tender Opportunity for the provision of an online booking and permit system including software licenses, hosting and support for a period of 48 months. The expected release date of the tender was February 2021, but this has not yet happened.

1. When will the tender for the online booking and permit system be released and will it be public or select?
2. Is there a business case for the tender?
3. Where will the money collected from park fees be allocated?
4. Will this be classified as general revenue?
5. Will this require extra staff resources to operate the new system?
6. Will extra staff be required to enforce compliance with this system?
7. What will happen if people do not pay?
8. When is the system projected to make a profit?

ANSWERS

1. The Request for Tender (RFT) is due for release in March 2021. It will be released as a public tender.
2. Yes. The Business Case for the Information Communications and Technology Governance Board was prepared by the Department of Corporate and Digital Development. It is Commercial in Confidence.

3. The revenue collected will be allocated to improving infrastructure and amenity on priority projects across the parks estate.
4. Yes but will be reinvested back into parks as it will improve the financial position overall.
5. Yes. A customer service unit will be established within the department to provide seven day a week assistance to visitors.
6. No. Rangers already undertake compliance activities on parks and reserves.
7. In the early stages of implementation there will be a heavy focus on education, and assistance will be provided to ensure all visitors understand what they are paying for and how to pay. If visitors are found to have not paid due fees, or are unwilling to do so, they will receive an infringement notice issued under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976*.
8. The system is projected to have a return on investment in year three of implementation.