

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Tourism and Hospitality:

Support for Remote Tourism

- 1. Tourism businesses based in remote areas have seen significant increased costs for supplies and freight. Is there any support in the 2022/23 budget for small remote tourism operators?**

Announced in the 2022-23 budget, Tourism NT is offering a range of new and returning grant programs to Territory tourism operators from 1 July 2022.

The Northern Territory (NT) Government is providing \$2 million in grant funding for the third round of the Territory Small Business Roadhouse to Recovery Grant. The program is aimed at improving the visitor experience of the NT's more remote, drive focused businesses. The NT Government will contribute \$1 for every \$1 of the total project value up to \$150,000.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade is also offering funding to NT businesses to adapt to the changing economic environment, while improving business viability and profitability. The Business Pivot grant program is currently open to Territory enterprises, including tourism businesses, with an annual turnover of more than \$75,000 and employing at least one full-time employee but no more than 20 full-time employees.

- 2. Poor quality roads create significant problems for tourism businesses in remote areas. Many of the roads to homelands are the responsibility of local Government and funded federally, however in order to support the growth of tourism, all levels of Government need to be working together.**

What work is being done by the NT Government to address these issues?

Tourism NT recently undertook comprehensive industry and government consultation to develop the dedicated Northern Territory Drive Tourism Strategy 2021-2030 to further develop the NT as a drive destination. Identified opportunities include upgrades to critical tourism enabling roads and access roads to improve infrastructure and access across the NT, including telecommunications.

Implementation of the Strategy will increase coordination between regions and stakeholders to ensure tourism benefits are considered in the delivery of new road infrastructure, aligning with opportunities and initiatives identified in Tourism NT's regional Destination Management Plans.

Additional visitor experience developments include working with Land Councils and Traditional Owners to develop and consider tourism opportunities along key drive routes.