

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Higgins to the Minister for Tourism, Sport & Culture:

Internet Services

1. Will Government-provided internet services be reinstated to Wauchope Hotel and Roadhouse? If not, why not?
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ANSWERS:

1.
 - Tourism NT first installed Wi-Fi at the Wauchope Hotel in May 2016. The Wauchope Hotel was paying 25% of the monthly service fee for the first 12 months, then 50% for the second year. In August 2017 TNT agreed to pay 100% of the annual service costs (\$17,000) to further test the viability of the system for an additional 12 months.
 - The service was discontinued in August 2018 due to very low usage (<4000 users per year) and 78% of users being repeat/locals, utilising the service to download information instead of the intended uploading and sharing of travel photos and highlights by visitors.
 - The decision to discontinue the service was discussed with the Wauchope Hotel owner in June 2018. He stated that he was comfortable with that decision.
 - Tourism NT provides a free Wi-Fi service at Karlu Karlu /Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve, nine kilometres north of the hotel. This Wi-Fi site is well used by new users (non-local) and has a very good upload rate. Given the Reserves proximity to Wauchope and current Wi-Fi usage, there are no intentions of reinstating the same service at the Wauchope Hotel.