The Darwin Regional Tourism Association has condemned the Kennedy Report.

It has adopted a resolution to lobby the Government to have implementation of its recommendations halted.

Members of the association voted on the action at a meeting in Darwin attended by the Chief Minister, Mr Marshall Perron, the Tourism Minister, Mr Roger Vale, and the head of the NT Tourist Commission implementation team, Mr Jeffery Weigh.

The DRTA general manager, Mr Rod Plaister, said yesterday it was likely a meeting would be called to discuss further action.

But the Government is unlikely to make any changes to its implementation strategy.

Mr Perron said the move against the report was not strong.

It was also in contrast to the strong support the Government had received from the Alice Springs and Tennant Creek regional tourism associations.

At its regular monthly meeting, this time attended by more than 100 people, the Darwin association considered two motions on the Kennedy Report.

One, to accept the recommendations of the report as presented and adopted by the NT Government, was defeated by 23 votes to six.

The other, to condemn the report and lobby the Government, was carried by 18 votes to 11. About 50 DRTA members were eligible to vote and there was a significant number of abstentions on both motions.

Objection to the report's findings is believed to have come mostly from larger operators concerned at the impact on international markets of the sudden closure of the NT Tourist Commission's overseas offices.

Smaller operators were also concerned at the closure of the NTTC's interstate bureaus, considered the lifeblood of the small operators' business.

The DRTA also discussed the closure of the commission's bureau in the Mall. A motion that the DRTA not become involved in retail sales was defeated.

The closure of the Mall bureau would leave the selling of tours and accommodation to the public in the hands of travel agents, who have in recent times shown little enthusiasm for marketing local business.

Some DRTA members have retail outlets, but may be considered unsuitable as replacements for the bureau because they would tend to sell their own product ahead of the alternatives.