Savannah Symposium Helps Build Tourism Opportunities

Over 100 people are participating in the Savannah Symposium in Darwin this week looking at tourism and business development opportunities along the Savannah Way.

The Savannah Way is an iconic driving route that stretches from Broome in Western Australia, crossing through the Northern Territory from Timber Creek to Katherine, Roper Bar and down to Borroloola then along to Cairns in Queensland.

Minister for Tourism, Dr Chris Burns, said the Savannah Way presents ecotourism development opportunities for Territorians living in remote and regional areas.

“The Territory Government is committed to supporting the development of cultural and environmental tourism experiences along the Savannah Way route which will help create sustainable employment and business opportunities for people in remote areas,” Dr Burns said.

“Each year around 9,200 international four-wheel drive visitors come to the Territory and stay for an average of five nights during their visit, which equates to around 47,300 nights each year.

“This presents some great opportunities to build new businesses and create jobs in remote communities and towns like Katherine.

“The Savannah Symposium will look at ways to create sustainable businesses in the bush and this is a terrific initiative of Savannah Way Limited to bring together all the stakeholders.

“Representatives from Government, the community, research and land management programs, and tourism organisations will attend the conference and participate in workshops and field trips discussing new and innovative ways of undertaking sustainable business in the bush.

“The Territory Government will continue work to develop tourism opportunities in the bush and promoting the unique four-wheel driving experiences on offer for visitors.

“The Savannah Symposium will help build on the good work already undertaken to develop tourism opportunities along the Savannah Way,” Dr Burns said.

The Savannah Symposium will run until Saturday and will include field trips to Kakadu and Arnhem Land.

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