TOURISM CUTS IGNORE TOUGH TIMES AHEAD

Willem Westra van Holthe MLA

18 Apr 2011

The Government’s cut to the Territory’s tourism budget ignores the tough times faced by the industry over the next 12 months. Minister Malarndirri McCarthy announced today the Territory would spend $41.4million on tourism over the next year, down by $1.5million on the previous year. “The Government is failing to provide the necessary support to a crucial industry during a time of extreme need,” says Shadow Tourism Minister, Willem Westra van Holthe. “The high Australian dollar threatens to keep international tourists away from the Territory while sky-rocketing air-fares and fuel prices will hit the domestic tourism market. “It’s disturbing the Government failed to disclose the cuts in the media release issued by the Minister this afternoon. “Its claim it’s ‘responding to the issues facing the local industry’ is clearly false. “Labor is in the process of releasing the spending program contained in this year’s budget, it also has a responsibility to identify to Territorians where it’s making cuts.” Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430