Applications now open for national tourism infrastructure program

16 February 2016

Northern Territory tourism businesses are being encouraged to apply for funding to develop new tourism projects under a national tourism infrastructure program.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said a pool of $775,000 is up for grabs from the Federal Government’s Tourism Demand-Driver Infrastructure Program in 2016-17.

“This program is a great opportunity for local tourism businesses to create some exciting new tourism experiences and products in the Northern Territory,” he said.

“We saw some fantastic projects funded under last year’s program including new conference facilities at Crab Claw Island, the renovation of Seven Spirit Bay in Arnhem Land and the construction of wheelchair accessible pathways in Central Australia.

“These type of infrastructure improvements help to expand the range of tourism experiences on offer in the Territory, particularly in our regional and remote areas.

“Support for these high quality, large scale projects deliver a broad benefit across the tourism sector, and encourage visitors to disperse and extend their visit.

“This in turn will help boost tourism in our regional areas and create more jobs.

“We want to be strategic and support infrastructure projects that deliver maximum return and drive tourism demand and I encourage all Territory operators to consider nominating a project.”

To be eligible projects must fall into at least one of the following categories:

- **Environmental** – the development or enhancement of natural assets such as, but not limited to, protected and recreational areas, public spaces such as beaches and parks and walking trails;

- **Built** – such as, but not limited to, mixed-use facilities, exhibition, convention and event facilities, cultural institutions, entertainment and sporting facilities, city/town precincts and tourism attractions;

- **Transport** – such as, but not limited to, roads, rail networks, ports and airports; and
- **Enabling** – such as, but not limited to, Indigenous tourism development, the development of tourism networks, plans and feasibility studies, and programmes to improve industry capability and capacity.


Mr Giles said the Federal funding comes on top of the Northern Territory Government’s own $4.75 million Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund.

“We have so far announced about 40 grants to Territory tourism businesses and are finalising the latest applications,” he said.

“The Territory Government’s tourism infrastructure grant program has proven so popular we can’t accept further applications so I would encourage tourism operators to consider nominating for the Federal funding program.”

**Media Contact: Scott Whitby 0438 531 583**