Tourism Minister Dr Chris Burns today rejected claims by the Member for Araluen, Jodeen Carney, that the Government should inject extra funding "in the order of millions" into tourism marketing.

"The Member for Araluen has been exposed as a sideshow to the task of building a stronger tourism industry in the Territory," Dr Burns said.

"If the member for Araluen were honest with the people of the Territory, she would be forced to acknowledge the hard work put into developing the Territory’s tourism strategy by the Government, by the Tourism Commission, and by the members of the tourism sector.

In the last two months, this Government has:

- committed an extra $1 million to international marketing, split over 2002/03 and 2003/04;
- committed an extra $1 million to the domestic advertising campaign, bringing the total advertising spend to $3.8 million - the largest spend since 1994/95;
- committed an extra $600,000 to a tourism rescue package following the cancellation of the Arafura Games;
- developed business plans that successfully encouraged Virgin Blue to commence flights from Sydney to Alice Springs and Darwin.

"The Member for Araluen has said that actions speak louder than words, and that is particularly true in this case.

"It is the actions of this government that has delivered these initiatives, while the hollow words of the Member for Araluen have achieved nothing other than to betray her ignorance of good governance, and her contempt for efforts of the tourism industry in the Territory.

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