Tourism Minister Dr Chris Burns has written to members of the Territory’s tourism industry to ‘set the record straight’ on the Northern Territory Tourist Commission budget.

Dr Burns said there had been confusion surrounding the budget since the release of the Treasurer’s mid-year report last month.

"The CLP Opposition has made claims in the past week that the NTTC budget has been cut by $2 million," Dr Burns said.

"This is mischievous and untrue. There has been no cut to the NTTC budget.

"The Government provided special funding for one-off commitments, including $2 million for Virgin Blue and $500,000 for international marketing.

"Tourism is the biggest private sector employer in the Territory, providing jobs for 8000 Territorians, and contributes more than $1 billion directly into our economy.

"The Northern Territory Government recognises the value and importance of tourism and that’s why I have written to members of the industry to let them know what’s really going on.

"The Martin Government commits a greater percentage of our total budget, 1.2%, to the NT Tourist Commission than other Governments spend on state tourism organisations.

"Labor has long term plans for improving the tourism industry, which will be achieved through the NT Tourism Strategic Plan 2003 – 2007."

The letter has been emailed or faxed to members of the NT tourism industry.

\[to the top\]