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FLYING KANGAROO TRAVEL CENTRE FLIES OUT OF NHULUNBUY

The closure of the Qantas travel centre in Nhulunbuy is a real blow for the community, Member for Nhulunbuy Lynne Walker said today.

“With the growth of online travel, the closure of the last remaining Qantas travel centre in the country has been on the cards for some time but it’s disappointing that it comes with such short notice and at a time of year when people are planning Christmas and school holiday travel over the wet season,” Ms Walker said.

“If the business has not been commercially viable for Qantas, it’s hard to see another travel agent or franchisee stepping in to fill the gap but the opportunity, and I think the need, is there.

“Hardest hit will be my Yolngu constituents and others who don't have credit cards or shop online.

“I am assured that the schedule of daily Qantas flights from Darwin and Cairns will remain as is and I assume that airport operations for passengers will continue with contracted staff.

“In October 2010, CLP transport spokesperson Peter Styles complained about the closure of the Qantas travel centre in Bennett Street, Darwin. Now the silence from Tourism Minister Matt Conlan is deafening when it concerns a similar service in our community.

“Minister Conlan is yet to visit Nhulunbuy. It is clear he is happy spending time in Darwin and Alice Springs but has taken his eye off the ball in regional areas such as East Arnhem Land.

“Qantas tells me it has nothing to do with current uncertainty around Rio but local businesses are experiencing a downturn right now. The longer the uncertainty around Gas to Gove continues the more we might see other businesses impacted.”

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