1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Northern Territory Government is providing $4.75 million for strategic infrastructure projects and product development initiatives that will improve the visitor experience and grow the value of the NT tourism industry. These grants will complement the business focussed grants offered and administered by the NT Department of Business.

The program seeks to develop innovative tourism experiences in the Northern Territory through new or enhanced product offerings with a focus on regional, remote and aboriginal businesses. There are two components:

1. Small scale grants aimed to support new or established tourism businesses (see category 1 nomination form).
2. Larger grants which provide legacy benefits for a business or region (see category 2 nomination form).

Category 1 “grants - up to $30,000

These grants will be provided to assist businesses enter the tourism sector, improve distribution links or foster enhancement of existing operations. This flexible category of grants can be accessed at any time by completing the category 1 nomination form following these program guidelines.

Category 2 grants - $30,000 to $100,000

Successful projects should:

(a) Align with Tourism Vision 2020 which sets a blueprint for the Territory’s tourism sector (see http://www.tourismnt.com.au/en/strategies/nt-tourism-vision-2020);
(b) Be strategic in nature by delivering benefits to an individual business, as well as the greater Territory tourism industry;
(c) Be of sufficient scale to provide a lasting benefit to the recipients’ business and broader industry; and
(d) Be able to be commenced or works contracted within the 2015-16 financial year.

If you have an idea for a category 2 project that could be supported under this program, nominations should be submitted using the category 2 form before 31 August 2015 (for round 1) and before 31 January 2016 (for round 2).
2. AVAILABLE FUNDING

A total pool of $4.75 million (GST exclusive) is available.

Priority will be given to category 2 projects which demonstrate co-contribution or can demonstrate operator value-add. Funding above $100,000 may be considered in special circumstances, i.e. if the project is judged to be of unique value to the greater tourism industry. Up to three progress payments can be made upon completion of agreed project milestones.

Applications under this program will be considered with reference to other Government funding which you may have accessed or qualified for.

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To be supported through this program, businesses must have a significant tourism focus, be legally constituted, Australian registered and currently operate in the NT. Agencies of Government, Regional Tourism Organisations and other membership based associations are not eligible to apply.

4. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The category 1 grants will be of particular benefit to persons located in remote areas of the Territory who wish to commence a tourism business, or existing businesses wishing to expand into remote areas of the Territory.

For category 2 grants, as a guide only, examples of projects may include (but are not limited to):

1. Implementation of new technology to improve the tourism experience, such as apps or other digital initiatives including augmented reality;

2. Development of visitor experiences that diversify the tourism offering in the region, such as niche experiences that target high growth or high yield market segments (e.g. fishing, bushwalking, mountain biking, bird-watching, education);

3. Value adding to existing experiences with additional activities (e.g. high quality interpretative or interactive signage). Any signage must align to national standards and requirements of the Department of Transport;

4. Infrastructure solutions to encourage new markets (e.g. connection to essential services, walking trails, additional visitor accommodation).

Businesses are only eligible for one category 2 grant during the 2015-16 financial year.

This program is focussed on tourism businesses across the Northern Territory, however particular emphasis will be placed on regional, remote and aboriginal businesses.
5. INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

There are a number of ineligible items and activities which the funding cannot be used for:

- Activities that have commenced before the grant has been approved;
- Upgrading or developing facilities predominantly for local community use;
- Marketing, advertising, product promotion activities, regular repairs and maintenance, travel;
- Administrative or running costs that are normally the responsibility of a business (e.g. rent, wages and salaries, insurances, auditing and finance costs etc.), state or territory administration or local council;
- Funding for mobile/portable assets including, but not limited to, vehicles and boats;
- Purchase or lease of real estate of any type; and
- Activities where an applicant has not fully acquitted any previous Northern Territory Government funding.

Please take care to ensure ineligible activities are not included in any application.

6. INDICATIVE DATES – CATEGORY 2 GRANTS

To ensure all businesses have equal opportunity to suggest projects which may be supported, there will be two intakes for the larger category 2 grants.

Key dates follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Round 1</th>
<th>Round 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nomination period opens</td>
<td>1 July 2015</td>
<td>1 December 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date for project nominations</td>
<td>31 August 2015</td>
<td>31 January 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consideration of projects by the NT</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>February 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of successful recipients</td>
<td>October 2015</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects Agreements finalised</td>
<td>October 2015</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
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These dates are indicative and may be changed if necessary (for example, if a larger than anticipated volume of potential projects received). Projects may be supported that have been identified through this or another process.

All category 2 projects must commence before 30 June 2016.
7. NOMINATION PROCESS

The program will operate via a merit based nomination process, in two stages.

Stage one

An initial assessment of projects by a panel based on written project concepts. Project concepts are to be forwarded by email to strategy.tourismnt@nt.gov.au or by mail to Panel Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund, Tourism NT, GPO Box 1155, Darwin NT 0801. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted.

Stage two

Further concept discussions between the panel and projects which advance to this stage. This may include a more detailed project plan and concept development. Applicants should note the NT Government may conduct credit checks and other due diligence processes as part of the assessment process.

8. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Eligibility of projects will be assessed at stage one based on alignment with the criteria detailed at section 1 and giving consideration to claims from regional, remote and aboriginal tourism businesses.

9. FUNDING AGREEMENT

A legally binding funding agreement will be entered into between the Northern Territory Government and selected applicants. The terms and conditions of the agreement will be determined based on the nature of the activity proposed. The agreement will set out:

- The rights and obligations of the Northern Territory Government and the funding recipient.
- Agreed project plan and budget as per application.
- Reporting and funding acquittal requirements.
- Requirements for recognising NT Government support and promotional obligations arising from receipt of funding. Applicants should note details of successful funding recipients will be advised publicly and recorded in Tourism NT’s annual report.

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact strategy.tourismnt@nt.gov.au or telephone 08 8999 5198. A copy of these Guidelines is available at: http://www.tourismnt.com.au/en/industry-resources/grants-and-funding/tidf-201516.

Tourism NT’s corporate website www.tourismnt.gov.au is a valuable resource for accessing information to support applications including tourism research and strategies.
1. APPLICANT and BUSINESS DETAILS

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<th>Field</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Funding requested (inc GST): $</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td>Funding requested (ex GST): $</td>
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2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT FOR STAGE ONE ASSESSMENT INCLUDING:

- An outline of the scope of the project (100 words or less);
- Outline how the project will benefit your business and the tourism industry (250 words or less);
- Overall project budget, including detail of funding sources for any co-contribution. Please provide both GST inclusive and exclusive figures.
- Project completion date.

3. DECLARATION (To be completed by the Business’s Authorised Representative)

☐ By ticking this box I confirm that I accept the Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund Guidelines and declare that the statements made in this form are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if my nomination is successful the NT Government may publicise or promote its support of my business.

Name: ____________________________  Signature: ____________________________  Date: __/__/20

Nominations can be made at any time during the year

Email to strategy.tourismnt@nt.gov.au
1. APPLICANT and BUSINESS DETAILS

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</tbody>
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2. PROJECT OVERVIEW - 4 page maximum

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT FOR STAGE ONE ASSESSMENT INCLUDING:

- An outline of the scope of the project;
- The location of project to be funded under the program;
- Address core program requirements:
  - Alignment to Tourism Vision 2020
  - How the project will benefit the greater Territory tourism industry as well as your individual business
  - How the project will deliver lasting benefits
  - Confirm the project can be commenced by 30 June 2016;
- Overall project budget, including detail of funding sources for any co-contribution. Please provide both GST inclusive and exclusive figures;
- Project completion date; and
- Photographs or drawings (if relevant - can be in addition to 4 page document).

3. DECLARATION (To be completed by the Business’s Authorised Representative)

☐ By ticking this box I confirm that I accept the Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund Guidelines and declare that the statements made in this form are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if my nomination is successful the NT Government may publicise or promote its support of my business.

Name:        Signature:        Date: / / 20

Deadline for nominations: Round 1: 31 August 2015; Round 2: 31 January 2016
Email to strategy.tourismnt@nt.gov.au