TOURISM REBOUND TASKFORCE

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the global economy. Governments are intervening in unprecedented ways to save lives, jobs and livelihoods.

Tourism has been a major employer and contributor to the Northern Territory economy ($2.2 billion in gross value added and 17,100 jobs 2017-18).

The Tourism industry is expected to be the hardest hit by the health measures introduced to combat COVID-19 with the air transport, touring, attractions, accommodation and hospitality sectors likely to experience forward revenue reductions of up to 90%. The timing of the crisis exaggerates impacts for the NT tourism sector, with travel bans commencing at the end of the low season and likely to extend for the remainder of the high season. This will mean that many tourism businesses have entered the period of restricted trading with low cash reserves and with limited or no ability to operate profitably for 18 months (until the 2021 peak tourist season). Financial and human resource availability will be critical in driving the speed of the tourism sectors recovery in what will be uncertain times with the potential to never see a return to a pre COVID-19 context.

1. PURPOSE

The Tourism Rebound Taskforce is being established at the request of the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, to provide strategic and practical advice to inform an appropriate response and recovery for the tourism industry. It is imperative a planned recovery program is in place so the sector can rebound strongly taking into account uncertainty around the easing of border restrictions and continuation of measures such as physical distancing leading to the need for finding new ways of doing business.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES

The taskforce will be responsible for providing:

* a national industry perspective on what recovery may look like and advise what the policy/support mechanisms look like at a national level
* feedback on the ability of businesses to prepare for the staged approach to the easing of national and international restrictions and the potential for changed consumer behaviour as it relates to tourism
* coherent advice on policy settings required to support the re-establishment of the tourism industry in the NT by government, with an aim to preserve and sustain sector employment in what may be a very different environment
* coherent advice on the role industry will play in the re-establishment of the tourism industry in the NT, with an aim to preserve and sustain sector employment in what may be a very different environment
* an opportunity for the Chief Minister to seek advice on the potential recovery roadmap and what this may look like for the tourism industry

1. MEMBERSHIP

Tourism Rebound Taskforce members will be identified by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture and proposed to the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture. The Tourism Rebound Taskforce will comprise no more than nine (9) members including the Chair.

In finalising membership, consideration will be given to ensuring a truly national and international perspective can be provided by the membership in a Northern Territory context. Equally the membership should be recognised as an expert in their respective tourism sector and/or be representative of businesses which drive significant volumes of visitors into and throughout the Northern Territory, as well as having significant tourism related experience and skills.

The Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture will endorse and officially appoint the final membership of the Tourism Rebound Taskforce, including appointment of an independent Chair.

These members will be appointed initially for a one month period until 30 May 2020, with the possibility of extension.

The Tourism Rebound Taskforce may invite individuals or organisations to assist with specific advice and expertise for relevant discussion matters.

1. ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SPORT AND CULTURE

The Department will perform secretariat duties for the taskforce, noting that it is expected meetings will be held via teleconference or video conference. Secretariat duties include:

* Preparation of agendas, scheduling meetings and notifying members.
* Circulation of reports, supporting information prior to each meeting.
* Provide requested data to help inform the Taskforce’s advice.
* Preparation of committee meeting documentation as required.
* Taking minutes of the meeting.
* Facilitating communications and engagement with the sector.

1. MEETINGS

Meetings will be held as required and agreed by the Chair and members of the Tourism Rebound Taskforce. The first meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible.

1. REPORTING

A meeting communique on discussions and actions arising from meetings should be prepared by the Tourism Rebound Taskforce and provided to the Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture as on the day following meetings or as soon as practical.

1. ACCOUNTABILITY

The Tourism Rebound Taskforce is a non-statutory body. The role and functions of the Tourism Rebound Taskforce are advisory in nature.

1. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Given the unfolding nature of the pandemic the Terms of Reference may be amended following meetings of the Tourism Rebound Taskforce and agreement of the Minister.