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## Public hearing in Darwin 7 March 2007

# Top End's tourism attractions

Attracting tourists and workers to the Top End will be a focus of a public hearing to be held in Darwin by the House of Representatives Employment Committee this week. Tourism is an essential part of the Northern Territory economy, directly and indirectly providing employment for nearly 10 per cent of the population.

Even though the Northern Territory is a favoured destination for tourists, local businesses face difficulty recruiting staff. The size of the Territory and its dispersed population increases labour costs and add challenges to providing competitively priced tourism experiences.

The Committee will be discussing these issues with Tourism NT. The Committee will also be talking to the Darwin International College of Advanced Education about how to address the difficulties of providing education and training to remote communities, particularly in a seasonal industry.

While in Darwin, the Committee will be visiting Crocodylus Wildlife Research and Education Centre to learn more about the role tourism can play in supporting wildlife research.

On the inquiry, Committee Chair, Hon Gary Hardgrave MP, commented, "The tourism sector is of vital importance to Australia's economy and to promoting Australia on the world stage. The fact that local businesses are having difficulties recruiting staff will affect the quality of the visitor experience. We need to ensure we can support employment growth and keep Australia on the tourism map."

"The incorrect perception that the tourism sector does not provide long-term, satisfying career prospects is a serious impediment to its future employment growth. This inquiry is examining how best to support continued employment growth in the industry and ensure Australia remains a top tourist destination."

### **Public hearing program: Wednesday, 7 March 2007**

**Time:** 10.00am – 12.00pm  
**Venue:** Namarluk Room, Travelodge Mirambeena Resort, Cavenagh St, Darwin  
**Witness:** 10.00am – Tourism NT (Submission 39)  
10.45am – South Australian Tourism Commission (Submission 34)  
11.15am – Darwin International College of Advanced Education

Further details on the membership of the Committee, the inquiry and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing [ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au).

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Hon Gary Hardgrave MP, on (02) 6277 4585 or (07) 3344 2622

**For background information**, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162 or 0407 406 337