

# WANGETTI TOURIST TRAIL

A Shorten Labor Government will back a plan to construct a new iconic tourist site for the Cairns region by committing \$5 million to the proposed Wangetti Tourist Trail.

The proposed trail will deliver a new tourist site along the coastal ranges between Palm Cove and Port Douglas, north of Cairns.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland has said the project “has the potential to become an iconic Australian tourism walking and cycling trail.”

The Trail will give walkers and cyclists access to the region’s unique flora, fauna and natural landscapes, by winding through rainforests and along beaches. Walkers and cyclists will have panoramic views of the Great Barrier Reef from sections of the Trail and be able to walk along pristine coastline.

The project is being developed with the support of Cairns Regional Council and the Douglas Shire Council, as well as key local stakeholders such as the Cairns Chamber of Commerce. The project is currently at the feasibility stage, with a detailed concept plan having been developed.

In addition to this commitment, Labor has also announced a \$1 billion Northern Australia Tourism Infrastructure Fund that would be available for expanding the local tourism sector to maximise the benefit of the Trail.

Key features of the Trail will include:

- 76km mixed mountain bike and walking trails
- Overnight facilities such as campsites and related amenities
- Access to commercial accommodation, food and leisure experiences along the trail

The Trail is expected to take walkers around 6 days to complete, while mountain bikers would need about two days.

The traditional owners of the region – the Yirrganydji people – will also have a chance to benefit from the project. The published concept plan raises the potential of the Trail to highlight the local Indigenous culture throughout the walk.

The Trail could also become a vehicle for potential employment of the local Indigenous community – through the construction and ongoing maintenance and management of the trail, and employment on the trail as guides. Labor will ensure the traditional owners are consulted through the development phase.

The Cairns Regional Council estimates the total cost to be \$21.5 million, and will attract around 36,000 walkers and cyclists each year, creating 74 additional jobs in the region.

This would project would result in an extra \$10.4 million in new economic activity in Tropical North Queensland directly attributable to the Trail.

## Why are we doing this?

Tourism is a key industry in Tropical North Queensland, attracting more than 1.6 million international and domestic holiday makers in the year ending March 2017. During the same period, visitors injected around \$3 billion into the local economy.

Across the region, Tourism Tropical North Queensland estimates 25,000 people are both directly and indirectly employed through tourism.

Projects like the Wangetti Tourist Trail have the potential to attract new tourists to the region, boosting the economies of surrounding towns and communities.

Labor is backing the tourism sector in Cairns to see it grow and attract increased visitors from Australia and overseas, particularly from the growing Asian markets.

This in contrast to the Turnbull Government which short-changed the Cairns community by failing to match the Queensland Government's funding injection into the new Cairns Performing Arts Centre.

Cairns deserves better from Canberra and a Shorten Labor Government will deliver.

## Financial Implications

2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
0.0	0.0	-2.5	-2.5	-5

Labor is able to make this investment as a result of policy announcements that make our tax system fairer and improve the budget position.

This includes reforms to negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions, closing loopholes for multinationals, and limiting tax minimisation through incoming splitting from discretionary trusts. Labor will announce further budget improvements prior to the election.

This will particularly benefit Cairns, as it will support private sector investment in hotels and other tourism infrastructure to help the region grow.