



**GARY HIGGINS**  
**OPPOSITION LEADER**

**5 October 2018**

*For immediate release*

**Boundless downturn: retail and tourism figures decline**

The Territory economy continues to fall behind the rest of the country, as confirmed by the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures, released overnight.

Coupled with a decline in both visitation and spending from tourists, the Northern Territory's economic landscape is simply getting worse.

Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that the terrible statistics reinforce the hard truth that is already very familiar to Territorians and local businesses.

"The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures are taken from our dry season August period, which has historically been a busy time for the retail sector, to see such a sharp decline is very concerning and reinforces the perilous state of our economy.

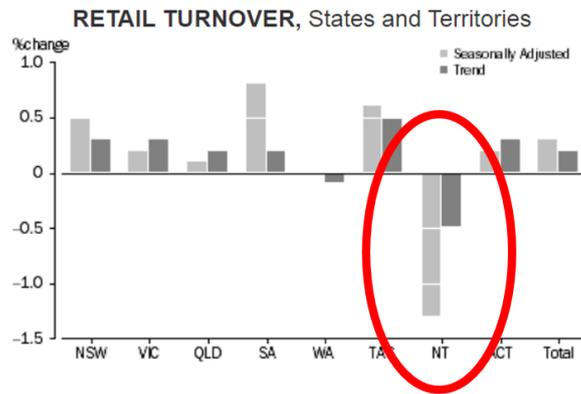
"Tourism, an important part of the Territory's economy has also waned, as the Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction to have suffered a double digit decrease in visitation and spend.

"In Alice Springs, tourism earnings are down 22 per cent, reinforcing that the government's much hyped tourism spend has not converted to results and visitation.

"Despite the rhetoric, Labor has been completely ineffective in managing the Territory economy for two years, and it's Territorians that are paying the price.

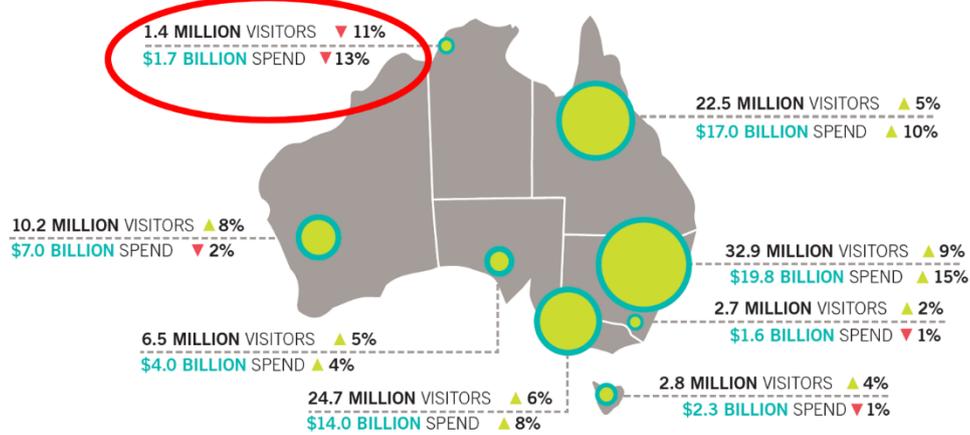
"We need wealth creating major projects, an environment ripe for private investment and the 28,000 jobs Labor promised," said Mr Higgins.

*...cont over page.*



**ABOVE: Northern Territory trailing all other jurisdictions.**  
 Western Australia was relatively unchanged (0.0 per cent), and the Northern Territory (-1.3 per cent).

**FIGURE 2: OVERNIGHT TRIPS AND REGIONAL SPEND BY STATE, YE JUNE 2018**



**ABOVE: Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction to have suffered double digit decline in both visitation and spend (via Tourism Research Australia)**

**ENDS**

**NOTE:**

- Australian Bureau of Statistics – Retail figures available via <https://tinyurl.com/y7lgluo4>
- Tourism Research Australia of the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) available via <https://www.tra.gov.au/Domestic/domestic-tourism-results>

**Media contact:** Georgina Murphy 0432 679 567