



**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MEMBER FOR FARRER**

MC19-008563

Mr Gary Higgins
Leader of the Opposition
Northern Territory Government
GPO Box 3700
DARWIN NT 0801

29 JUL 2019

Dear Mr Higgins

Thank you for your letter concerning the Australian Government's investment in Kakadu National Park.

Following the Prime Minister's \$216 million investment, announcement on site in Kakadu National Park earlier this year, we remain absolutely committed to delivering this investment as quickly as possible. This investment is aimed at re-confirming Kakadu's status as the shining jewel in the Northern Territory's tourism crown and transitioning Jabiru from a mining town to a world-class tourism hub.

In line with this commitment, I am pleased to advise that 70% of the investment in Jabiru and Kakadu (i.e. \$151M) is scheduled to be delivered over the next four years of the 10 year program. This rapid injection of funding will immediately boost the territory economy through new construction and other business contracts and associated jobs. In the medium- and longer term, the Morrison Government's investment will provide a much stronger foundation for growing the tourism economy in the region and across the territory.

Delivery of new infrastructure and other investments in Kakadu will be driven by the Tourism Master Plan and the Roads Strategy. I am also pleased to advise that Parks Australia has already called for tenders for both pieces of work. I expect the successful tenderers will be announced in the coming weeks and work will commence shortly after.

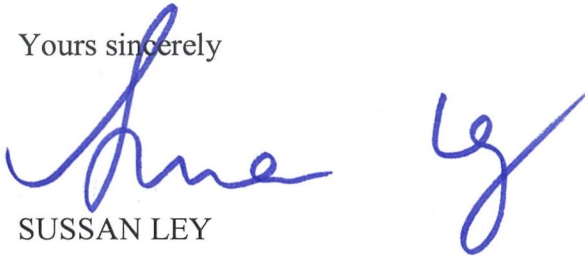
Work on the \$35M remediation of Jabiru has also commenced with tenders already called for technical assessments and some environmental testing already completed. Parks Australia is continuing to work closely with other stakeholders in Jabiru, including Energy Resources of Australia and Gundjheimi Aboriginal Corporation, in the planning and delivery of remediation works for Jabiru. This will ensure the vision of a revitalised and tourism-focused town is realised.

As you can see, Parks Australia is getting on with the job but remains committed to thorough and appropriate engagement with Traditional Owners, the tourism industry and all other stakeholders. Consultation will necessarily take some time but the early development of the Tourism Master Plan and Roads Strategy will ensure we get the foundations right for subsequent investments.

In recognition of your passion for the territory and detailed knowledge of the region, I very much value your ideas regarding investment priorities. I am assured by Parks Australia that improved visitor access to these and other iconic, natural and cultural sites will be a major focus during the development of the Tourism Master Plan and Roads Strategy.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susanna Ley', with a large flourish at the end.

SUSSAN LEY