



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

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**Tourism opportunities abound for the Territory**

Tourism presents a wonderful opportunity for the Territory, which could be led by the redevelopment of Kakadu National Park.

Responding to a Ministerial Statement in Parliament yesterday afternoon, the Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins said that Kakadu National Park could again become the anchor attraction of the Territory's tourism industry, in line with an international tourism trend favouring world class natural attractions.

UNESCO reports that 84 per cent of international travellers visit world heritage sites, and we have two in the Northern Territory.

"The Opposition supports the Territory tourism industry, it is vital to the Territory's economy, employing some 17,000 Territorians directly or indirectly, and we'd like to see tourism numbers be bigger and better.

"Kakadu National Park is home to 280 traditional art sites, that figure alone outlines the sheer magnitude of this opportunity.

"The Opposition presented a proposal for the revitalisation of Kakadu National Park to Federal Ministers in Canberra in February.

"The proposal included investment in infrastructure and facilities that leverage natural, cultural and heritage assets, such as;

- Access to art sites
- Construction of all-weather roads from Jabiru township east to Mt Brockman and across to the escarpment
- Walking tracks, board walks and viewing platforms

"The building and development of the project could be undertaken by local Indigenous people, providing a new opportunity for employment and upskilling.

"Any development explored for Kakadu National Park should include extensive consultation with Traditional Owners and stakeholders, including Indigenous community groups.

"The redevelopment of Kakadu National Park is in the hands of the Federal government, however the opportunity for international sources to invest in the park may too be a consideration.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Northern Territory and something I call on the Labor government to champion as well," said Mr Higgins.

**ENDS**

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