



MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister for Resources and Energy
Minister for Tourism

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Federal Funding for Queensland Tourism Solution

The Minister for Tourism, the Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP, has announced \$4 million in Federal Government funding for projects to assist the Queensland tourism industry following Qantas's decision to reduce airline capacity to the state.

Minister Ferguson said: "This package will be welcomed by the industry and it will go a long way toward helping the industry find long-term solutions to the challenges confronting it presently.

"Australian tourism operators are doing it tough, the industry's concerns are very valid, and the problems faced by tourism nationally have been building for some time.

"We have a very strong dollar, soaring prices for petrol, food, and other business inputs, there is a tight labour market, and Australian tourism operators are facing increasingly fierce competition from international destinations.

"We also have significant supply-side and capacity constraints throughout the Australian industry which are to be addressed through the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy announced by the Australian Government on May 8.

"Clearly, we need to ensure Australia's tourism infrastructure, workforce, and product are able to meet the demands and expectations of a changing market and this work is already underway.

"I have this morning met with the Queensland Tourism Minister as well as representatives from Tourism Australia, and Tourism Queensland to discuss the establishment of a joint-government working party which will address the structural challenges facing the Queensland industry.

"The funding will in the short-term see Tourism Australia work to help re-position, refresh, and promote north Queensland with further discussions to be held following the return of a delegation to China and Japan.

"There is no quick fix to the challenges in front of us and we are committed to working with the Queensland Government and tourism industry operators to develop a long-term and a sustainable solution."

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