

2019 FEDERAL ELECTION

PROMISES VS. PRIORITIES



Invest in the next generation of iconic Australian attractions

Liberal National Party

- ✓ Deliver a Tourism Icons Package to ensure Australia's tourism icons remain world-class experiences - including \$8 million to build the next stage of the Wangetti Trail from Mowbray River through to Palm Cove.
- ✓ Building Better Regions fund for tourism-related infrastructure.
- ✓ \$40 million fund to establish and grow Indigenous Tourism as part of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.
- ? Deliver the tourism boost provided by City Deal, including tourism investment in icon destinations such as Longreach.

Unsure of what this looks like or the other benefits.

Labor Party

- ✓ \$95 million in grants to improve tourism infrastructure around existing tourism attractions - including \$40 million to improve infrastructure around existing regional tourism attractions and \$55 million for infrastructure and facilities upgrades.
- ✓ Investing \$30 million to unlock new tourism opportunities including First Nations cultural experiences and improved accessibility.

Greens

- ? Provide \$60 million to boost regional and rural tourism, through grants for tourism operators, community groups, and local government.

Matched funding from \$1,000 to \$100,000 per grant - focus on transitioning economics.

Support a National Quality Tourism Framework



Liberal National Party

- ✓ \$6 million to support a National Quality Tourism Framework.

No new or increased tourism taxes

Liberal National Party

- ✓ Continue to support hundreds of thousands of small and medium-sized businesses in the tourism sector through lower taxes, growing the economy and creating jobs.

Grow our gateways for better access



Liberal National Party

- ✗ Focus on regional airports in Sydney. No apparent consideration to other regional gateways
- ✓ \$30 billion for major tourism-related infrastructure improvements, including; airport, road, and rail, \$10 billion for Bruce Highway and \$330 million for the Outback Way.

Labor Party

- ✓ \$100 million to help local councils maintain and grow regional airports - ensuring they can operate safely and connect more Australians with the regions.

Assist the tourism industry in responding to climate change

Liberal National Party

- ? \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund. This will help farmers, small businesses, and Indigenous communities reduce emissions, lower energy costs, and improve the natural environment. This will build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund, which has delivered tonnes of emissions reductions.

Labor Party

- ✓ Committed to reducing pollution by 45% on 2005 levels by 2030 and reaching net zero pollution by 2050.
- ✓ Developing a National Framework for Building Climate Resilience, bringing together local and state government, community groups, the business community, researchers, and relevant Commonwealth agencies and departments.
- ✓ Re-invigorating the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) to support the creation and dissemination of research into local climate change impacts, through re-funding of the program with a \$12 million funding boost.
- ✓ Introducing a Coastal Rehabilitation Fund to work with communities, local governments, and the Australian Coastal Councils Association to directly support local and coastal rehabilitation projects that restore beaches and other environments and improve their resilience with \$50 million of grant funding.

Greens

- ✓ Phase out coal, move to 100% renewables and deliver cheap, clean, and reliable energy for homes, businesses, and industry.
- ✓ Tackle the waste crisis to make Australia a global leader in reusing and recycling products.
- ✓ Look after our oceans, forests, rivers and reefs by introducing a network of marine parks, ending deforestation, saving the Great Barrier Reef, protecting the Murray-Darling basin and stopping oil and gas exploration in the Great Australian Bight.
- ✓ Protecting and restoring nature: a new generation of environmental laws.



Encouraging Australians to holiday at home

Liberal National Party

- ? Continue to support the tourism sector by investing record levels of funding for Tourism Australia over the next four years. The Government will also enable Tourism Australia to monitor and adjust marketing approach to directly support communities impacted by natural disasters and unforeseen events.

Labor Party

- ? \$25 million for Tourism Australia to get more international visitors and showcase our beautiful country to domestic tourists.

Greens

- ? Boost Tourism Australia funding by \$40 million over four years to attract more visitors and generate sustainable economic activity.

Strengthen our tourism workforce and skills

Liberal National Party

- ? Deliver improved arrival and visa processing system for international visitors.

Significant changes have been made to the visa system during the Coalition's current term. These changes have created slower processing times, changes to the 457 system that do not support skilled migration and that create additional challenges to businesses.

- ✗ The Morrison Government has made changes to the Working Holiday Maker visa program to support regional and rural communities by increasing the number of tourists eligible to do seasonal work.

The changes to the WHM visa has made this category less competitive globally due to the taxation framework surrounding the visa. A significant decline in the number of WHM tourists has been identified across the state since changes were introduced.

Labor Party

- ? Crackdown on 457-style visas, ensure local workers are given the first shot at local jobs and invest in skills and training.
- ? Major skilled visas will only be available when a genuine skills gap cannot be met with local workers.

Major skills gaps across the industry, unclear how will these be acknowledged.

- ✗ Reversal of the cuts to penalty rates in our first 100 days, restoring fair pay for up to 700,000 workers.

This may have significant implications for small business.

Greens

- ? Increase wages and protect workers' rights by rewriting our workplace laws.



The first draft of this fails to acknowledge the substantial challenges industry is and will face due to climate change, over tourism and a range of other factors. The on-going focus on visitor numbers over sustainable growth demonstrates a narrow-focus that does not address industry need.

Other announcements

Liberal National Party

- ? Deliver the Beyond 2020 Tourism Strategy to make the most of opportunities provided over the next decade.
- ✓ \$11 million over the next four years to support the Approved Destination Status Scheme.
- ✓ \$3 million in a new campaign in China to lure high-spending, independent and repeat travellers to more areas of Australia.
- ✓ Supporting small and family tourism businesses through increasing asset write-off threshold to \$30,000, lowering taxes and growing the economy.
- ✓ Invest in improving the visitor processing and arrival process into Australia. Streamline and automate the visa application process with the latest and most sophisticated digital technology. Next generation SmartGates will be rolled out to all major Australian international airports, ensuring a speedier arrival in Australia.

Labor Party

- ✓ \$100 million into marine science, including a \$30 million redevelopment of the iconic ReefHQ in Townsville.
- ? Protecting our natural environment by creating an Australian Environment Act and establishing a Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

It is unclear what the implications of this will be and how it may impact commercial operations in National Parks.

- ✗ Legislate to allow workers the right to request permanent part-time or full-time employment after 12 months with the same employer.

Potentially large implications on employment, in particular for SMEs.

Other announcements continued...

Labor Pary Continued

- ✗ Lifting the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) to \$65,000 with annual indexing. This will ensure it's not cheaper to bring in an overseas worker than pay a local worker.

Regional, seasonal destinations often struggle to find effective employees. Skilled migration is one option that eleviates some of the issues associated with regional employment. These changes have the potential to reduce the accessibility to this labour market.

- ? Ban unfair contract terms imposed by multinational online travel booking platforms on Australian accommodation providers and support the competition watchdog to further into so-called "price parity" clauses across other platforms.
1. Amend the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 to ban price parity clauses between online travel agencies and accommodation providers. 2. Support the competition regulator to use a market study to inquire into price parity clauses across platforms and industries.
- ? Closing loopholes that allow employers to artificially inflate salaries in order to meet the TSMIT - providing substandard accommodation and inflated or excessive overtime hours.
- ✓ Targeting exploitative employers and increasing funding for a joint agency taskforce. Extending the Fair Work Ombudsman's regulatory powers to the inspection of workplaces and investigation of employer breaches of work visa provisions.
- ✓ Requiring employers to provide their workers with a copy of the relevant collective agreement, award or labour agreement.
- ✓ Providing protections for migrant workers who are being exploited to come forward without fear of immediate deportation.
- ? Establishing an independent Australian Skills Authority to restrict temporary work visas to jobs where there is a genuine skills shortage.

This Skills Authority must be agile and responsive to industry needs. The Authority must listen to industry representatives and peak bodies to ensure the program is effective.

- ✗ Introducing the Australian Jobs Test to prevent labour agreements from being entered into unless they support or create jobs for Australian workers.

Many employers already find labour agreements challenging to enter into. They are entered into to address major shortages felt by employers. This change is likely to add futher barriers to the process, making it less attractive to businesses in need.

- ✓ Cracking down on unqualified and under-qualified temporary workers by strengthening enforcement of skills assessment and occupational licencing requirements.
- ✓ Strengthening the current skills assessment processes by ensuring offshore assessment and testing of overseas workers is by a Trades Recognition Australia approved Registered Training Organisation before being granted a visa.

