

# ELECTION 2019

## Tourism policy: who's offering our industry what?

ATEC has been calling on our political leaders to be ambitious for our industry. Tourism is already an impressive contributor to the economy but we continually witness an apathy from both sides of politics to truly invest in a growth strategy. Not only would this deliver incredible opportunity for the businesses that constitute our sector, but also for government as increased visitation contributes more to government coffers.

So, who's offering what this election? ATEC unpacks the policy promises from both parties so you can make an informed decision on 18 May and #vote1tourism because #tourismdrivesgrowth.



ATEC POLICY ASK	COALITION	LABOR
 <p><b>Invest an additional \$60m in Tourism Australia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$154m in 2019/20, up \$15m on 18/19 Projected to increase to \$167m in 2022/23.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$25m for Tourism Australia to also deliver domestic marketing and aviation route development</li> </ul>
 <p><b>invest \$3.5m into national export capability programs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific commitment to training and/or development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$6m to roll out the 'Quality Tourism Framework' but this does not specifically address export, market or trade-readiness programs</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Regional tourism development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$50m tourism icons package</li> <li>Ongoing commitment to providing dedicated funding in future rounds of the Building Better Regions fund</li> <li>Support Shipwreck Coast &amp; Great Ocean Road with \$184m investment</li> <li>\$216m upgrade to Kakadu/Jabiru</li> <li>Provide a \$40m fund to establish and grow Indigenous Tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$40m to improve infrastructure around existing regional tourism attractions</li> <li>\$30m to unlock new tourism opportunities in region</li> <li>\$55m for infrastructure &amp; facilities upgrades at other 'world-renowned' tourism destinations</li> <li>\$120m in key Tasmanian tourism projects</li> <li>\$220m upgrade to Kakadu/Jabiru</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Increase the pool of funds for EMDG by at least \$12.5m</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$60m of additional funding announced by the government over the forward estimates delivering \$180m in additional funding for the EMDG program since 2013.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labor will continue to support the Export Market Development Grants Scheme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Continue to fund Austrade to manage the Approved Destination Status (ADS) program</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$11m over four years to support ADS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mention of ADS</li> </ul>
<p><b>Freeze the PMC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment to freeze until 22/23 fiscal year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labor is committed to not increasing the Passenger Movement Charge in its next term of government.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Visa application fees – online applications should mean fees can come down if efficiencies are created</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visa fees adjusted up by CPI in the 19/20 budget</li> <li>All other visa sub-classes excluding 600 (tourist visa) going up by 5%, including WHM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mention of visa fees.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Simplify our visa system to reduce processing times</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment to streamline &amp; automate visa application process using digital technology</li> <li>Commissioning a global visa benchmarking study to assess Australia's competitiveness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labor will reform visitor visas to maintain and grow Australia's competitiveness as a tourism destination.</li> <li>We will adopt new technologies to enhance the visitor experience so that Australia does not fall behind other countries.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expand our regional international gateways</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An additional six domestic airports designated as international: Hobart, Newcastle, Avalon, Canberra &amp; Townsville either are or will be servicing international flights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of a \$100m fund to improve and grow regional airports – focusing on maintenance but no commitment to specific gateways</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Reform the Tourist Refund Scheme</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mention of TRS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labor will continue to work with the industry to develop a Tourism 2030 strategy that considers a broad range of issues raised by the Beyond Tourism 2020 Steering Committee including the Tourist Refund Scheme and Passenger Facilitation</li> </ul>
 <p><b>5G start-to-finish connectivity for the always-connected traveller</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An additional \$160 million for two new funding rounds of the highly successful Mobile Black Spot Program on top of \$760 million of new investment in mobile infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mention of connectivity</li> </ul>