



Media release

Minister for Innovation and
Tourism Industry Development and
Minister for the Commonwealth Games
The Honourable Kate Jones MP

Consultations shows jobs the key for tourism hub

The people of tropical north Queensland have spoken and more jobs are what they want.

Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said this was the major finding from the Queensland Government's latest round of community consultation for the proposed Cairns Global Tourism Hub.

The consultation was announced in December 2017 and included a month-long pop-up stall in Cairns Central shopping centre and an online questionnaire that collectively secured more than 600 responses.

"First and foremost, respondents were interested in the government maximising the number of jobs created by this project," she said.

"Respondents were also focused on the environment and investment in new tourism opportunities in the region.

"The report we are releasing now builds on the initial six-week Community Consultation and is just the beginning of our Tropical North Global Tourism Hub engagement process."

Ms Jones said the public's input from this consultation would be forwarded to shortlisted proponents in the GTH Expression of Interest process to be rolled-out in the coming weeks.

"Before Christmas and again in January, I and the State Members for Cairns Michael Healy and Mulgrave Curtis Pitt - urged those in the Far North to have their say," she said.

"We said then - and I say again - this program is ultimately about getting us more tourists who stay here for longer and spend more money.

"And that all equals new jobs and tourism investment. Thanks to all who had their say."



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The Tropical North GTH Expressions of Interest is anticipated to close mid-year and as we proceed further, more community engagement will be undertaken.

Ms Jones said Global Tourism Hubs delivered catalyst projects to support city-building objectives and create regional jobs and new investment.

"All of this is about growing the State's \$25 billion tourism industry – a great industry that supports around 225,000 jobs in Queensland," she said.

Ms Jones said a Tropical North GTH, including a casino, at the Cairns City Port precinct, if chosen, clearly also has investor and visitor appeal.

The Tropical North GTH Community Consultation Report is available at <https://www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism/special-projects/global-tourism-hubs/tropical-north>