Queensland's breathtaking natural environment inspires millions of visitors every year. From World Heritage Areas to ancient Indigenous culture, the care and sustainability of these wonders makes our ecotourism industry strong.

In the Tropical North, tourism is worth $3.1 billion and supports one in five local jobs. The Queensland Government is supporting the future of the region through sustainable growth, protecting the environment and delivering new ecotourism experiences for visitors.

Queensland Ecotourism Trails will boost the local economy and create long-term jobs while, to the best possible extent, preserve our natural and cultural assets for future generations.

The program is delivered through an innovative and collaborative model, focused on Traditional Owners and working in close partnership with other levels of government, tourism operators and the wider community.

The Wangetti Trail will be a one-of-a-kind experience of Indigenous cultural history and stunning coastal and hinterland scenery through the World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef.

Stretching over 94 kilometres, visitors can walk the trail from Port Douglas to Wangetti Beach over the optimal six days or mountain-bike from Wangetti Beach to Palm Cove in one day, or up to three days to complete the full trail.

The trail is designed to provide visitors with an immersive Indigenous cultural experience. The Traditional Owners will continue to play an active role in the trail planning, development, maintenance and operation.

It is estimated that thousands of walkers and mountain bike riders from around the world will visit the Wangetti Trail each year, offering potentially thousands of new overnight stays.

Following months of intensive fieldwork and planning, the proposed Wangetti Trail alignment (or route) was released in April 2019.

**FAST FACTS:**
- Queensland’s first dual-use, multi-day walking and mountain biking trail
- Includes Indigenous cultural experiences, lookouts, and activities such as guided walks
- Public campsites and privately operated low impact eco-accommodation at five locations
- All facilities to be delivered in accordance with the Department of Environment and Science’s Implementation Framework: Ecotourism Facilities on National Parks
- Trail is expected to be ‘Grade 3’ for walkers and ‘More Difficult’ for mountain bike riders – both sections suitable for intermediate skill levels.
**PROJECT PROCESS**

Delivering an iconic ecotourism experience requires extensive planning and engagement, with multiple stakeholders and environmental considerations.

An extensive market engagement process will find the best proposals from Tourism Operators. In partnership with Traditional Owners, Tourism Operators will be able to provide experiences such as guided walks and operate low impact eco-accommodation along the trail once completed. Queensland Ecotourism Trails will not involve the sale or privatisation of national parks or public land.

The process follows four key stages:

- **Market Engagement**
  Tourism Operators who wish to be considered in the process for an Ecotourism Trail opportunity can submit their interest.

- **Expressions of Interest**
  Suitably qualified Tourism Operators will be invited to engage with Traditional Owners and refine their proposals.

- **Request for Detailed Proposals**
  Shortlisted Tourism Operators will be invited to further develop their concept and proposal, including confirmed commercial arrangements with Traditional Owners.

- **Preferred Proponent Selection**
  The successful Tourism Operator will be selected and binding terms negotiated, with construction commencing after all approvals including agreements with Traditional Owners are in place.

Subject to approvals, completion of the trail is targeted for 2022.

**BENEFITS**

The Wangetti Trail will enhance conservation and protection of a cherished part of Tropical North Queensland, designed to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits to local communities and to Queensland, including:

- New funding and reinvestment sources to preserve, protect and present national parks and their cultural heritage.
- Better controls to limit damaging and uncontrolled activities within parks including feral animal management.
- Supporting Traditional Owner and existing local businesses and new business opportunities.
- Enhanced connection to country whilst ensuring the protection and preservation of Country.
- Stronger appreciation and understanding of Indigenous culture.
- Underpinning long-term growth and liveability in the Tropical North and building community resilience for regional communities.
- Long term job and business opportunities for Traditional Owners and their future generations.
- Up to 150 new local jobs created including opportunities to develop local skills and increase diversity of regional jobs.

For further information please contact:
- QldEcotourismTrails@ditid.qld.gov.au
- 1800 957 852 (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm AEST)
- Tourism Development Projects Division, Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, PO Box 15168, City East, QLD, 4002