

**Question on Notice  
No. 210  
Asked on 21 February 2007**

**MR CHOI** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, FAIR TRADING, WINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN (MRS KEECH)—

With reference to creating opportunities in tourism for our indigenous community—  
What initiatives have been put in place?

ANSWER:

**Current & recent Indigenous tourism initiatives**

Tourism Queensland is involved in a broad range of projects and initiatives aimed at increasing Indigenous involvement in tourism and realising the potential of Indigenous tourism in Queensland including:

- the completion of a Tourism Needs Assessment to identify sustainable tourism opportunities for the Mapoon, Weipa, Napranum and Aurukun communities;
- conduct of a product review and the identification of tourism opportunities for the Northern Peninsula Area of Cape York to assist in coordinating the efforts of the five Indigenous communities in the area;
- advising the Lockhart River Council on tourism opportunities relating to camp grounds, walking tours to World War II sites, fishing and the construction of accommodation at the Lockhart airport;
- conduct of a product review for Pormpuraaw Shire Council to outline existing tourism infrastructure such as camp grounds, crocodile farms, guest houses and art centres;
- conduct an investigation with the Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw Shire Councils on the feasibility of developing the Mitchell River Loop Road as a Cape York touring option;
- providing advice to the Indigenous Land Corporation on the suitability of developing Crocodile and Welcome Stations as tourism resorts;
- assisting Poruma Island Resort in obtaining funds to acquire a sports fishing vessel plus training for locals to become sports fishing guides;
- providing opportunities for Indigenous leaders in the Cape York region to inspect established tourism facilities to assist them in making informed decisions about the tourism future of their communities;
- assisting the Mapoon Aboriginal Community in the development and implementation of a detailed e-marketing plan for their Western Cape Turtle conservation tourism camp through the re-development of their website;
- assisting the Injinoo Aboriginal Corporation to find suitable operators to sub-lease and redevelop the Pajinka Wilderness Lodge;
- assisting Kgari Aboriginal Corporation to investigate tourism opportunities on Fraser Island and Hervey Bay and provide advice on how to take advantage of commercial opportunities;
- commissioning a qualitative evaluation of how the Cherbourg Aboriginal community engages or could engage with tourism in the South Burnett region;
- arranging a review and media familiarisation of the Aurukun Wetland's Houseboats Project on behalf of the Aurukun Aboriginal council;
- participation in current Tourism Australia/ Indigenous Tourism Australia Roadshow to the United Kingdom and Europe, to promote Queensland Indigenous tourism experiences; and

- participate in a joint research project with the Southern Cross University, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre to ascertain how Indigenous people view the mainstream tourism industry and how this industry views Indigenous involvement in tourism. The results will allow the GBRMPA to allocate special permits for Indigenous tourism sites which are designed to help preserve Indigenous culture, safeguard the natural environment and promote visitor safety.

### **Queensland Indigenous Tourism Strategy**

An initiative of the Queensland Tourism Strategy is the development by Tourism Queensland of a Queensland Indigenous Tourism Strategy. The Queensland Indigenous Tourism Strategy is aimed at providing direction and coordinated action to increase Indigenous involvement in the tourism industry in Queensland and attract more visitors, particularly from higher yielding international markets, to participate in Indigenous tourism experiences. Development of the strategy will include formal consultation with Government, industry and community stakeholders. The strategy is expected to be finalised by the end of 2007.

### **Cape York and Torres Strait Tourism Development Action Plan**

Tourism Queensland, in conjunction with Government agencies, industry and Cape York and Torres Strait communities, has developed the Cape York Tourism Development Package. This package received \$500,000 funding in the 2005-06 Budget. Of this amount, \$320,000 has been invested in environmental protection through the installation of toilets at key stopover points on the Peninsula Development Road. The remaining \$180,000 has been used to develop the Cape York and Torres Strait Tourism Development Action Plan.

The draft plan, which will be released in the near future for public review, provides a coordinated action plan to guide the development of sustainable tourism opportunities in Cape York and the Torres Strait.