

17th December 2024

The Hon. Daniel Mookhey, MLC
New South Wales Treasurer
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

TOURISM & TRANSPORT FORUM - SUBMISSION TO NSW 2025-26 BUDGET

The Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) is the peak industry group for the aviation, tourism, transport, and related infrastructure sectors. TTF is a national, member-funded CEO forum, advocating for the public policy interests of our members. TTF represents a broad range of operators which include airports, airlines, tourism, attractions and travel operators, accommodation providers, major events, retail and hospitality businesses, and leading private & public transport operators with a state and national presence.

TTF welcomes the opportunity to provide a pre-budget submission for the 2025-26 NSW State Budget and we look forward to continuing to work with the NSW Government as the budget is further developed. Please reach out to TTF Head of Strategy and Public Affairs, Mitch Coveney on mcoveney@ttf.org.au if you would like any additional information.

Yours sincerely,



Margy Osmond
Chief Executive
Tourism & Transport Forum

2025-26 NSW PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

WORKING HARBOUR

MAINTAINING SYDNEY'S WORKING HARBOUR

Sydney's Working Harbour is a crucial asset, vital for the progression of a range of the city's economic needs and sustainability goals. Bays Port, which includes Glebe Island and White Bay, is the last remaining deep-water, land interface port for commercial shipping in Sydney Harbour, and facilitates the supply of essential resources, such as 40% of Sydney's cement, 100% of its gypsum and 60% of its food-grade sugar. The port also serves as a dedicated hub for Sydney's maritime economy supporting major events like The New Year's Eve fireworks, Vivid and Sail GP. TTF urges the NSW Government to recognise that a relocation of the port would not only disrupt supply chains, but add 226,000 truck movements annually, while driving higher costs for commodities and infrastructure and contributing over 24, 000 tonnes of CO2 emissions.



BUSINESS EVENTS SYDNEY

ENHANCING THE ATTRACTION AND OUTREACH OF SYDNEY'S BUSINESS EVENTS

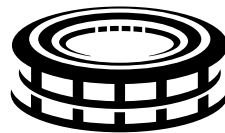
The business events sector is pivotal to the NSW visitor economy, attracting high-value business travellers to the state. The NSW Government should commit to multi-year, indexed funding for Business Events Sydney, ensuring its continued success in securing premium international business events. Additionally, a strategic plan should be developed to maximise tourism opportunities, including business event attractions, linked to the new curfew-free Western Sydney International Airport.



EVENT INFRASTRUCTURE

BOOSTING TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ACROSS NSW

With a growing emphasis on building NSW's reputation as Australia's premier destination for arts and cultural experiences, Sydney and regional NSW's major event infrastructure must evolve to meet growing demand and elevate experiences across the state. Key targets for budget spending include Accor stadium, who will again host an impressive event line-up in 2025, and key sporting and entertainment centres in Wollongong and Newcastle.



AVIATION ATTRACTION

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION RE-ATTRACTION

International aviation remains a critical lever for NSW's visitor economy. Despite encouraging recovery trends, international visitation remains below pre-COVID levels, and a state-focused approach is necessary to re-attract carriers and international tourists. TTF is recommending state-specific aviation re-attraction initiatives to incentivise airlines and restore international routes, ensuring NSW regains its position as Australia's premier destination for international travel.



SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL

SUPPORTING NSW'S SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL (SAF) INDUSTRY

The use of SAF is central to achieving net zero targets for the aviation and tourism industries, particularly given the emissions-intensive nature of long-haul routes like Sydney to London. NSW is uniquely positioned to lead Australia in SAF production, leveraging significant regional feedstock availability and the integration of metropolitan waste. SAF production could contribute over \$12 billion to the Australian economy by 2040, supporting more than 70,000 jobs while addressing critical waste management challenges.



SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

ENSURING A TRANSPARENT SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

TTF notes that there is an existing set of robust rules and regulations for the short-term rental accommodation sector, which includes mandatory registration, a code of conduct, and data sharing. We call on the NSW Government to provide clear timeframes on finalising the Short-Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) Review, which includes time for direct consultation with the sector on any recommendations.



FIRST NATIONS TOURISM

INVESTING IN FIRST NATIONS TOURISM OFFERINGS AND SUPPORTING CULTURAL INITIATIVES

The NSW Budget should prioritise funding for initiatives that support Indigenous tourism, including infrastructure development, marketing campaigns, and capacity-building programs for Indigenous-owned businesses. Investments in cultural experiences across regional and metropolitan areas will ensure greater access to First Nations tourism experiences and support Indigenous communities' contribution to the sector. Continued investment is needed to support NSW's offering of authentic First Nations tourism products and experiences.



SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

INVESTING IN NET ZERO PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Reducing NSW public transport's emissions to net zero requires targeted investments in electrification, hydrogen fuel technology, and renewable energy infrastructure. Transitioning bus, rail, and ferry networks to cleaner energy sources will not only reduce emissions but also improve air quality and public health outcomes for NSW. These initiatives should be supported by policies that encourage partnerships with the private sector. A sustainable public transport system supports broader state sustainability goals and ensures that NSW stays at the forefront of environmentally-focused urban transport solutions.



DESTINATION NSW

ENSURING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR DESTINATION NSW AS THE INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO RECOVER

Continue indexed, multi-year funding of at least \$285 million per annum. We are currently in one of the most competitive domestic and international tourism markets ever seen. The work of Destination NSW in attracting visitors to the state has never been more important. This funding is vital to ensure the future prosperity of the NSW visitor economy.

