



Nigel Scullion

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MacMahon Contractors wins \$11 million contract for Uluru Sunrise

A company with over 40 years of involvement in the development of the Territory has won a public tender to begin work on a new Sunrise Viewing Area for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

Over four decades, MacMahon Contractors has undertaken such significant works as construction of the Stuart Highway, the Alice Springs to Tarcoola Railway and the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway joint venture.

"This \$11 million contract is the largest single contract ever let for Uluru and I'm delighted that it has been won by a firm with such a strong local commitment," Australian Minister for Community Services and Senator for the Northern Territory Nigel Scullion said today.

"The contract covers Stage 1 of this important project, including 10 kilometres of new roads and car and coach parking areas.

"Work will begin immediately to set up the construction camp in this remote area and we expect the actual building work to get underway in late October."

The new sunrise area will be located south of the current site, and will provide views from dawn to sunset across the desert oak plains to both Uluru and Kata-Tjuta.

"Uluru is arguably Australia's most recognised icon, and a major drawcard for international tourists," Senator Scullion said.

"More than 400,000 visitors come to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park every year, contributing an estimated \$400 million to the Australian economy.

"This will be a world class facility befitting this fantastic World Heritage Area and the growing number of tourists over the coming decades."

Senator Scullion said Parks Australia would be advertising tenders for Stage 2 within the next few weeks. The second stage will complete the project and will include visitor walkways, viewing platforms, shade structures, toilets and an outdoor performance area.

The location and design of the new viewing area have been decided in close consultation with the traditional owners, Anangu, as part of the joint management of this World Heritage Area. The sunrise viewing area will offer new business opportunities for Aboriginal people.

The total investment by Australian Government in this project is over \$20 million, including a grant of \$600,000 from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.

The new sunrise area is expected to open in the second half of 2008.

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