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Metro Hotels, the accommodation division of Transmetro Corporation Limited's Metro Hospitality Group, will take over the operation of the Dugong Beach Resort at Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory, in January next year.

The company has signed a management agreement with Dugong Beach Resort Pty Ltd which is ultimately owned by the Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE), the business unit of the Anindilyakwa Land Council.

The resort commenced operations in January this year, and was officially opened by Governor-General Mike Jeffery in May.

The property comprises sixty waterfront rooms and suites, restaurant, bar, fully-equipped functions and conferences facilities, gymnasium, pools and spa. There is potential for the property to be expanded in future years.

The low-impact eco resort is owned by the Aboriginal people of Groote Eylandt, some of whom are employed at the resort. An Aboriginal Culture Centre is a central part of the complex, as is the adjacent Escape Sportfishing & Wilderness Lodge, run by Andrew Ettingshausen.

Transmetro says it sees the resort as a significant business, a source of pride for its owners, and a training and employment hub for local Aboriginal people.

"It is a very welcome addition to our portfolio," said Transmetro Chief Operating Officer George Bedwani.

The Dugong Beach Resort is the third property to be added to Transmetro's management inventory in the past 3 months.

Yours faithfully

Jakin Agus
Company Secretary