



MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 13 November 2006

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ECONOMICS,
FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**
Services Inquiry – Tourism Roundtable

*Chair: Hon Bruce Baird MP
Deputy Chair: Dr Craig Emerson MP*

House Economics Committee to hold Roundtable with Tourism Industry

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will hold a roundtable hearing with key players in the tourism industry this Wednesday, 15 November. Roundtable participants will include, among others, Tourism Australia, Qantas, and the Tourism and Transport Forum.

The roundtable forms part of the committee’s inquiry into the current and future directions of Australia’s service industries. This inquiry, which was referred by Treasurer Peter Costello, has received more than 40 submissions to date. The committee will also hold a tourism roundtable in Brisbane next week.

Committee Chair, Bruce Baird, today said ‘the Tourism sector is a key contributor to Australia’s economy; it is the dominant service industry and, along side coal and iron ore, is one of Australia’s biggest exports.’

‘This roundtable will provide an excellent opportunity for the committee and the industry to consider some of the issues and challenges, but also to explore future growth opportunities’ Mr Baird said.

The full list of participants is: Association of Australian Convention Bureaux; Austrade; Australian Hotels Association; Australian Services Roundtable; Australian Tourism Export Council; Department of Industry Tourism and Resources; Hotel Motel and Accommodation Association; National Tourism Alliance; Qantas; Restaurant and Catering Association; Tourism and Transport Forum; Tourism Australia; Tourism NSW; and Tourism Training Australia.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Committee	House of Representatives Economics Committee
Venue	Darling Harbour Room, Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour, 17 Little Pier Street, Darling Harbour.
Date	15 November 2006
Time	9.30am to 3.00pm

The program for the hearing is as follows:

9.30am	The current state of Australia’s tourism sector
9.45am	Opportunities for growth of tourism exports
10.45am	Illegal operators in the tourism sector
11.30am	Open session
12.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Skills and labour shortages in the tourism sector
2.00pm	Expanding growth in the tourism sector: The role for government
3.00pm	Adjourn

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chairman, Hon Bruce Baird MP on (02) 9525 8200 or 0418 611 668 (mobile).

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:

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