



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Australian Consumers Need Confidence and Choice**

Key industry leaders in the tourism and hospitality industry have asked the Australian Parliament to consider maximising the effectiveness of the proposed stimulus package by giving consumers choice on when and how they spend their money.

This follows a submission by the Australian Retailers Association to a Senate Inquiry recommending that the proposed funds be provided as retail vouchers and not cash.

"The key to this intervention is to take immediate action to prop up aggregate demand in order to keep employment at reasonable levels" said Col Hughes, Chair of the National Tourism Alliance. "Australia is now a service economy. Over 80% of employment is in service jobs and we need to ensure people spend their money across all areas of the economy.

"This might include using the funds to fix their car, renovate their house, visit a dentist, take a break away from home with their family, dine out or buy a new lounge" Mr Hughes said "the key issue is give people the confidence to spend and impress upon them that any drop in economic activity jeopardises jobs."

"Drops in interest rates, tax cuts and lower petrol prices mean Australians have more money in their pocket. The stimulus package should help harness this increased spending power" Mr Hughes said.

#### *Further information:*

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