



National Tourism Alliance

MEDIA RELEASE

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PEAK BODY WELCOMES NEW TOURISM MINISTER

The Australian tourism industry's peak industry body, National Tourism Alliance welcomes the appointment of Martin Ferguson as the Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism, and warmly congratulates the new Minister and the Government on their electoral success.

NTA Chair, Col Hughes extended the congratulatory message to the new Minister following yesterday's announcement of the Rudd Ministerial team. "We are delighted to see Minister Ferguson secure the Tourism portfolio as he has strong knowledge of our industry through his time as the Shadow Minister. We also acknowledge that the Prime Minister has honoured the pre-election commitment to our industry by making the Tourism portfolio a Cabinet position. It is a great start to what we hope will be a strong relationship between the Rudd Government and the tourism industry", Col Hughes said.

The NTA is an alliance of the tourism industry's key associations, including state groups, hotels, motels, caravans, casinos, business events, travel agents, airlines, inbound, wine tourism and duty free operators.

Issues on the agenda for tourism are significant, including labour & skill shortages, the challenges of climate change, a high Australian dollar and intense international competition to attract tourists. Newly appointed CEO for the NTA, Jenny Lambert said "we look forward to working with the new Tourism Minister and with other Ministers in portfolios relating to our industry on these important issues. It should be the aim of both Government and industry to find workable solutions and improvements that will lead to a stronger tourism industry."

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The National Tourism Alliance (NTA) is the national peak industry body, formed in 2001, to create unity within the tourism and hospitality industry and provide a single voice for the industry to Government.