



MEDIA RELEASE

FRAN BAILEY

Minister for Small Business and Tourism

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AUSTRALIANS TAKING MORE DOMESTIC TRIPS

A new report on domestic travel shows that a five per cent rise in the number of domestic trips taken in 2006 led to a \$3 billion increase in travel spend for the year, the Minister for Small Business and Tourism, Fran Bailey, said today.

The new report, *Travel by Australians, December Quarter 2006* released today by Tourism Research Australia provides an overview of domestic travel patterns for the December quarter and 2006 calendar year.

“Domestic travellers spent \$54.6 billion on their trips in Australia last year, an increase of six per cent on 2005,” Fran Bailey said.

“More importantly, for the first time in a number of years the growth in domestic travel (up five per cent) has grown slightly more than outbound travel by Australians (up four per cent).

“These results highlight that Australians are rediscovering the fantastic experiences that a great Australian holiday provides – whether it’s a great Aussie beach holiday or a fabulous farm stay in regional Australia.

“Travel by air was also popular in 2006, rising by 12 per cent for the year, as Australians continued to take advantage of competitive airfares, while growth in travel by road was significantly slower (rising by just 3 per cent).

“While the shift to air travel has impacted on the number of nights that Australians are spending away from home, with a shift to shorter stays, this trend is not impacting on travellers spend.”

Fran Bailey said the latest domestic travel results reinforce that the Australian Government’s commitment to growing domestic tourism is on track.

“Domestic tourism is the mainstay for Australia’s \$75 billion tourism industry so it is vital that we continue to ensure that Australians continue to take great Australian holidays.”

“Of real concern is regional tourism in NSW, which is lagging behind tourism to Sydney. Visitor nights is up only marginally to regional NSW (up 2%), compared to visitor nights to Sydney (up 12%). This is because the NSW Government has cut its tourism budgets repeatedly, adopting a Sydney-only tourism push. This is denying regional NSW the economic boost tourism delivers to other parts of regional Australia.”