



National Tourism Alliance

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOURISM APPLAUDS FEDERAL BUDGET'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING AUSTRALIA

Australia's tourism industry is thrilled with what has been delivered in the 2007 Budget, which was handed down last night.

National Tourism Alliance (NTA) Chair Col Hughes said the industry is pleased the uncertainty about future tourism funding has been eliminated.

"Attracting more international visitors to Australia is vitally important for the sustainability of tourism in this country," Mr Hughes said.

"By maintaining the funding provided under the Tourism White Paper for a further three years, the Howard Government has demonstrated its willingness to give this every chance of happening.

"Australia will now be able to continue to compete with other countries for both leisure and business visitors."

Tourism leaders are also hopeful that the Budget will provide Australians with the confidence that they have sufficient discretionary spending to take a break and see more of this country. Short breaks to regional centres provide a great way to relax from our hectic lifestyles by spending time with family and friends away from home.

Additional funding under the Australian Tourism Development Program and specific infrastructure funding for projects in Uluru will ensure regional communities will be able to develop compelling product to attract visitors.

"Getting people to visit regional communities should compensate some of the financial difficulties confronting tourism and hospitality businesses because of the drought." Mr Hughes said.

"This year's budget could be the shot in the arm that domestic tourism desperately needs. We want to see more Australians go on holidays in their own country."

The NTA acknowledges the work of Fran Bailey Minister for Small Business and Tourism in promoting the interests of tourism operators, the majority of whom are small businesses.

Further comment:

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