



Media Release

The Hon Fran Bailey, MP

15 February 2007

TOURISM AUSTRALIA LEGISLATION

Legislation was introduced to Federal Parliament this week to strengthen Tourism Australia's commercial focus and enhance its financial accountability.

The legislation, introduced by Tourism Minister Fran Bailey, will boost the powers and responsibilities of the Board of Tourism Australia. It follows the Uhrig review of statutory authorities.

Key changes include removing the Government member from the Tourism Australia Board, replacing the process of Ministerial approval of the corporate and operational plan with one of endorsement, and reducing the threshold for Ministerial approval of contracts from \$5 million to \$3 million.

"The legislation will put Tourism Australia on a stronger commercial footing, ready to chase the global consumer tourism dollar. It will give a much more strategic, commercial focus to the Board," Fran Bailey, said today.

"Over the past five years, the Howard Government has increased tourism funding by 60 per cent. The Tourism Australia Board will have to comply with increased financial accountability, which is appropriate given that 80 per cent of its funding is from Australian taxpayers."

Fran Bailey said the tourism industry strongly supported the legislation.

"The tourism industry is 100 per cent behind this legislation, which is both necessary and follows industry consultation," Fran Bailey said.

In accordance with the Uhrig Review, Fran Bailey also released the statement of expectations and statement of intent to clarify the purpose, functions and objectives of Tourism Australia.

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