



MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 20 November 2006

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ECONOMICS,
FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**
Services Inquiry – Tourism Roundtable

*Chair: Hon Bruce Baird MP
Deputy Chair: Dr Craig Emerson MP*

House Economics Committee to hold Roundtable with Tourism Industry in Brisbane

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will hold a roundtable hearing with key players in the tourism industry tomorrow. Roundtable participants will include, among others, Tourism Australia, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council and Gold Coast Tourism.

The roundtable forms part of the committee’s inquiry into the current and future directions of Australia’s service industries. This inquiry, which was referred by Treasurer Peter Costello, has received more than 40 submissions to date. The committee also held a tourism roundtable in Sydney last week.

Committee Chair, Bruce Baird, today said ‘the Tourism sector is a key contributor to Australia’s economy; it is the dominant service industry and, along side coal and iron ore, is one of Australia’s biggest exports’.

‘This roundtable will provide an excellent opportunity for the committee and the industry to consider some of the issues and challenges, but also to explore future growth opportunities’ Mr Baird said.

The full list of participants: Brisbane Airport, the Caravan, RV & Accommodation Association, the CRC for Sustainable Tourism, the Department of Industry Tourism and Resources, Gold Coast Tourism, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Service Industry Research Centre and Tourism Australia.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Committee	House of Representatives Economics Committee
Venue	Room P2, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Bank, Brisbane
Date	21 November 2006
Time	9.30am to 3.00pm

The program for the hearing is as follows:

9.30am	The current state of Australia’s tourism sector
9.45am	Opportunities for growth of tourism exports
10.45am	Illegal operators in the tourism sector
11.30am	Skills and labour shortages in the tourism sector
12.15pm	Lunch
1.15pm	Expanding growth in the tourism sector: The role for government
2.30pm	Open Session
3.00pm	Adjourn

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chairman, Hon Bruce Baird MP on (02) 9525 8200 or 0418 611 668 (mobile).

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:
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Website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa/index.htm>