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Supporting Information

By: MR WAYNE CALDER, GENERAL MANAGER,
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP, TOURISM DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM
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REGIONAL TOURISM

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM

Why is this important?

- Funding is being provided to support regional tourism initiatives through the Australian Tourism Development Program.
- The twelve regional tourism projects announced as election commitments in 2007 will support tourism in regional and metropolitan Australia by developing quality tourism precincts, experiences, and strategies for growth.
- The importance of strengthening regional communities was highlighted in the Government's 2007 election statement on regional policy.

Who will benefit?

- Tourism is a significant contributor to regional economies providing jobs for almost half a million Australians - it assists regional and rural communities to diversify and improve their sustainability.
- The specific projects to be supported are:
 - \$0.500 million for the first stage of a tourism strategy to encourage people to stay overnight and experience the heritage of Parramatta (NSW);
 - \$0.100 million to promote Batemans Bay township as a holiday destination during autumn and spring (NSW);
 - \$1.500 million to upgrade the Wonthaggi Coal Mine Visitor Centre (Vic);
 - \$0.500 million to restore the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour (Vic);
 - \$0.450 million to upgrade the Creswick Visitor's Information Centre (Vic);
 - \$0.185 million to upgrade the Table Cape Lighthouse for commercially operated tours (Tas);
 - \$0.166 million for an environmental audit program involving 40 tourism operators in the Huon Valley and Kingsborough (Tas);
 - \$0.050 million to refurbish a locomotive for tourist rail services in the Derwent Valley (Tas);
 - \$0.500 million for the 2009 Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive (SA);
 - \$0.075 million to refurbish the South Perth Old Mill as a tourism precinct (WA);
 - \$0.500 million to invigorate the Red Centre by providing two significant visitor shelters, visitor signage and picnic facilities (NT); and
 - \$0.100 million for a Central Highlands tourism feasibility study and a development plan for the Rubyvale Gem Centre (Qld).

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- \$4.6 million in 2008-09.