



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY

Minister for Small Business
Minister Assisting on Deregulation
Minister Assisting on Tourism

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EXPERT PANEL MAPS TOURISM'S TRANSPORT NEEDS

The importance of improved transport infrastructure to boost the Australian tourism industry has been emphasised at today's meeting of the Tourism Access Working Group in Sydney.

The second ever meeting of the expert panel of government, airlines, airports and industry associations was chaired by the Minister Assisting on Tourism, Senator Nick Sherry.

"Efficient air, road and rail linkages are vital to Australia's productivity and essential to securing Australia's competitiveness as a tourism destination," Senator Sherry said.

"The tourism and transport industries in Australia are highly interdependent, with the inbound tourism sector reliant on 99 per cent of visitors arriving by air."

"We expect to see a 5.3 per cent increase in visitor arrivals to Australia in the next year and we need to plan to ensure we have the transport infrastructure to meet this future demand and into the longer term."

The Working Group reported on its projects to map the tourism industry's aviation priorities.

These include raising awareness of the Tourist Refund Scheme and of the regional airports package.

"Today's meeting discussed the importance of the 2020 Tourism Industry Potential, launched at the recent Tourism Directions Conference in Canberra," Senator Sherry said.

"The Tourism Access Working Group has a role in ensuring the aviation requirements of the potential can be met.

"We have also agreed on a two year strategic work program for the Working Group.

"It is important the momentum of the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy is maintained and we will continue to drive improvements through the Tourism Access Working Group," Senator Sherry said.

Further information on the Tourism Access Working Group: www.ret.gov.au

SYDNEY

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