



Government Media Statement

October 30 2009

DAVID BARTLETT
Premier

Premier announces Hospitality portfolio

Premier David Bartlett today announced the creation of the new ministerial portfolio of Hospitality as part of the Government's plan to build on the increasing success of the hospitality sector.

The new portfolio will come under the Minister for Tourism and the Arts, Michelle O'Byrne.

"We are leading edge in the production of fine food, fine wines and fine beers.

"I want us to be able to take that not just to Australia but to the world market.

"To do that we have to ensure that our products are matched with our skills and the needs a high level political driver.

"That is what a portfolio status can help bring.

"Our tourism industry is leading Australia and the time is right to act to take hospitality to another level.

"Giving hospitality the status of a portfolio within Government acknowledges the great role it has to play in our future.

"It means that the sector will have a formal voice at Cabinet as we work to ensure that it can deliver jobs for Tasmanians for decades to come.

“We are moving quickly on this.

“Today Ms O’Byrne is at an Australian Tourism Ministers conference where she will announce that as Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and the Arts she will be the first minister in Australia to give portfolio recognition to this industry.

“Only last week I announced an additional \$4 million to support tourism in Tasmania and today’s announcement builds on that with the focus on hospitality.

“We have already shown we are serious about our hospitality industry.

“Our post year 10 reforms in education will have a direct impact in providing skilled people for the hospitality industry.

“Our paddock to the plate strategy will help show case the outstanding food, wines and beers of Tasmania.

“The optic fibre roll out will cut costs and open up new opportunities for marketing and promotion of our hospitality industry.

“Hospitality is a growing part of the Tasmanian economy and this announcement gives it the recognition it deserves.”

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