

Scott Bacon, MP

Minister for Tourism and Hospitality

Thursday, 8 December 2011

Collaborative Approach to Help Grow Flights to Tasmania

The Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, Scott Bacon, today announced the next steps to establishing a new working group involving both Government and industry, which will consider access to Tasmania.

Mr Bacon said the new working group would comprise key stakeholders and key industry leaders who rely on efficient and cost effective access, particularly via the airlines in and out of Tasmania.

“Sufficient and reliable access to our island state isn’t just important for tourism, it’s a fundamental requirement for our economy and our community and the makeup of this working group is designed to reflect that,” Mr Bacon said.

“We have invited CEOs of the Tourism Industry Council (TICT), the Tasmanian Hospitality Association (THA) and the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) to be involved.”

Mr Bacon said representatives from the Department of Economic Development, Tourism Tasmania and DIER would also be represented in the working group.

“This is a challenging and complex issue and it’s important that we have input from the business sector and community to guide the work of the group,” Mr Bacon said.

“The Government has continued to work very closely with the airlines through Tourism Tasmania and it is important and timely that the broader economic and community needs are also brought to the table.

“While there will always be issues beyond our control, and we acknowledge the commercial imperative of the airlines there is clearly a case to be made for improving airline capacity in and out of Tasmania.

“The working group will provide the Government with information, that could be used to create well informed business cases for lobbying airlines for any further commitment to Tasmania.

“By bringing together industry, Government and the tourism sector we are working to ensure all stakeholders will be heard in developing a compelling case for further growth in Tasmania.

“This new approach is being led by DEDTA and Tourism Tasmania and will be complementary to the state’s recently released Economic Development Plan,” Mr Bacon said.

Invited Members:

- Luke Martin – TICT
- Steve Old – THA
- Robert Wallace – TCCI
- Charles Griplas – TT Line

- Rod Parry - Hobart Airport
- Pamela Graham - Launceston Airport
- Roger Jaensch - Cradle Coast Authority
- Stuart Nettlefold - Business Events Tasmania

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