



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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AHA ENDORSES MINISTER FOR HOSPITALITY

Tasmania's innovative decision to appoint a designated Minister for Hospitality has been endorsed by the AHA.

The announcement about the new minister was made by the Premier of Tasmania in Hobart this morning.

"The AHA congratulates the Tasmanian Government – led by the Premier, the Hon David Bartlett MP – for deciding to appoint a specialised Minister for Hospitality," said the AHA's National Corporate Affairs Manager, Hamish Arthur, who was in Hobart for the announcement.

"Across Australia, hotels employ 258,286 people, while other sectors within the hospitality industry, such as restaurants and cafes, employ thousands more.

"Having a designated Minister for Hospitality further underlines the importance of hotels – and hospitality in general – to the economy in Tasmania and, indeed, the entire nation."

The combined tourism and hospitality sectors directly employ almost a million people in Australia and another half a million indirectly.

Mr Arthur predicted there will be many benefits resulting from this appointment for hotels and the wider tourism industry.

"The appointment of a Minister for Hospitality will greatly assist the hotel and tourism industries to have a stronger voice to the Tasmanian Government, which is vital when it is making key decisions," Mr Arthur said.

"The AHA urges other governments around the country to consider following this government's lead."

For further information:

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The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) is the pre-eminent tourism and hospitality industry organisation in Australia. It has around 5000 members operating general and accommodation hotels. It has a national office and branches in each State and Territory. It also has a discrete branch to represent the interests of its accommodation members that covers four and five-star properties.