

Monday, 21 November 2011

Scott Bacon MP Minister for Hospitality

Strengthening links between hospitality and Government

A new Memorandum of Understanding between the State Government and the Tasmanian Hospitality Association will foster stronger links with industry, the Minister for Hospitality, Scott Bacon, said today.

Today's signing coincided with the news that Hobart will next year host a national hospitality conference, and the Australian Hotels Association's national awards – bringing hundreds of key industry players to Tasmania.

"The hospitality industry makes a significant contribution to our economy, and plays a key role in supporting our tourism sector," Mr Bacon said.

"Through this MoU, we are setting the agenda for the industry moving forward.

"We acknowledge the THA as the peak body representing the hospitality industry in Tasmania, and will now have a framework for a productive and open relationship with them.

"By working together cooperatively, we can achieve more to help grow and develop this valuable industry."

Mr Bacon said the Memorandum set out a collaborative framework to deliver initiatives funded through the 2011-12 State Budget, including:

- Developing a strategic plan for the hospitality industry;
- Improving the industry's skills and capabilities;
- Developing and promoting of liquor accords to address alcohol-related anti-social behaviour; and
- Improving of the profile of the hospitality industry and recognising its importance for the Tasmanian economy.

"By supporting the industry we are working to set out a vision for the industry's future to ensure it continues to thrive, and recognise its many outstanding successes," he said.

“As part of this suite of initiatives, \$15,000 in seed funding was allocated to help the THA develop a number of events to raise the profile of the hospitality industry and celebrate its achievements.

“I am pleased to announce that the first key event for 2012 will be a national hospitality conference, to coincide with the Australian Hotels Association national awards, which will be held in Tasmania in September.

“Our hospitality industry has plenty of fantastic success stories, and next year’s conference and awards will be an excellent opportunity to promote this among the industry’s best and brightest.

“I congratulate the THA’s General Manager, Steve Old, for securing this significant event, which will provide a valuable opportunity to showcase Tasmania’s food, wine and fine produce along with the wonderful tourism and cultural assets that we have to offer to a national audience.

“The awards and conference demonstrate what can be achieved by the State Government working in partnership with industry.”

Mr Bacon said that the national conference was expect to attract more than 150 people to Tasmania, with around 500 key industry players expected to take part in the AHA national awards.

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