



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **MARTIN FERGUSON**

Minister for Resources and Energy  
Minister for Tourism

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### **FACT SHEET 1:**

### **AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS \$41 BILLION TOURISM INDUSTRY**

The 2010 Budget contains a number of direct and indirect measures which will complement the National Long Term Tourism Strategy including in the areas of skills, infrastructure and Indigenous tourism. The Budget will provide approximately \$5.5 billion in direct and indirect funding measures over the forward estimates for the potential benefit of the tourism industry.

#### **Industry Development**

##### **National Tourism Accreditation Framework**

\$5.5 million to establish National Tourism Accreditation Framework

#### **International Market Development**

##### **China Approved Destination Status Scheme**

\$4.1 million to ensure continuation of the China Approved Destination Status Scheme

#### **Domestic and International Marketing**

##### **Tourism Australia**

Maintenance of Tourism Australia funding for domestic and international marketing across the forward estimates.

#### **Business Events**

##### **Trade Events**

\$4.0 million over two years to continue support for staging major national and international events that facilitate the exchange of information and promotion of Australian agricultural products.

##### **CHOGM**

\$58.7 million over three years to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth in 2011.

#### **Training, Skills and Labour**

##### **Skills for Sustainable Growth Program**

A further \$661 million to improve workforce skills development through better education and training systems, including:

- reforms to vocational education and training systems, to help training systems become more responsive to the skills needs of students and businesses;

- establishment of a website, MySkills, to support skills development through the provision of comprehensive information on vocational education and training;
- establishment of national regulatory arrangements for the vocational education and training (VET) system;
- establishment of a Quality Skills Incentive initiative, to drive quality improvements across the sector;
- more effective support for skills development including competency-based training and smarter apprenticeships;
- measures to improve core employability skills, particularly language, literacy and numeracy skills; and
- establishment of a Critical Skills Investment Fund to help deliver training places and boost the number of workers available in skill shortage areas of national significance, including the resource and construction sectors.

### **Indigenous Employment Program**

\$152.1 million to increase opportunities for employment and economic development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by focusing on employer needs and providing support for Indigenous business development.

**Indigenous Land Corporation** (operates Home Valley Station- tourism property in Kimberley)  
From 1 July the Indigenous Land Corporation will receive a regular funding stream set at \$45 million per annum from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Account.

### **Immigration**

#### **Migration Program — allocation of places for 2010-11**

The Government will provide up to 168,700 places in the 2010-11 Migration Program, unchanged from the 2009-10 planning level. The composition of the Migration Program will be shifted towards the skill stream in order to focus the program more on Australia's economic needs and help to alleviate emerging capacity constraints. The 2010-11 Migration Program will comprise 113,850 skill stream places, 54,550 family stream places and 300 special eligibility places.

#### **Migration program — General Skilled Migration eligibility changes**

The Government will implement reforms to the eligibility criteria for the General Skilled Migration (GSM) program in response to the review of the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL).

#### **Work and Holiday visa (Subclass 462) — addition of new participant countries**

The Government will expand the Work and Holiday visa program (Subclass 462) to include new participant countries.

### **Transport, Safety and Security**

#### **Biosecurity and Quarantine**

\$14.7 million for quarantine IT system upgrades.

\$75.7 million towards \$127.4 million industry reform package for export certification services. \$32.5 million to fund development and trial of risk based intervention, improved governance arrangements, continued development of new legislation, finalisation and implementation of an intergovernmental agreement on biosecurity.

### **Border Security — biometrics for border and visa processing**

\$69.4 million over four years to introduce a biometric-based visa system for certain visa applicants. From 2010-11, visa applicants in ten overseas locations may be required to submit fingerprints and facial images, which would be matched against the biometric databases of Australia and partner countries.

### **Automated Border Processing between Australia and New Zealand — feasibility study**

\$1.4 million in 2010-11 to allow the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (Customs) to study the feasibility of using the Australian and New Zealand Governments' investment in the SmartGate automated border processing capability to streamline travel between Australia and New Zealand.

### **Rail Productivity Improvements**

\$996 million for rail upgrades including:

- \$170 million for line between Maitland and Queensland border;
- \$24 million for Goulburn, Moss Vale and Glenlee lines;
- \$312 million for lines between Whyalla and Broken Hill;
- \$253 million for lines between Broken Hill and Parks;
- \$110 million for line between Albury, Melbourne and Geelong;
- \$32 million for line between Gheringhap and Maroona; and
- \$95 million for line between Koolyanobbing and Kalgoorlie.

### **Nation Building Plan for the Future**

\$8.5 billion for nationally significant transport infrastructure projects. E.g. \$488 million to upgrade the Bruce Highway from Cooroy to Curra.

### **State Infrastructure Fund**

\$5.6 billion over a decade for a new ongoing infrastructure fund for the states and territories to commence in 2012-13 with an initial contribution of \$700 million.

### **Cycling Infrastructure (National Bike Path Projects)**

A further \$14.5 million to develop, extend and refurbish cycling infrastructure across Australia including off road bike paths (including mountain bike trails), on road bike lanes and bike parking facilities.

### **Roads to Recovery Program**

\$355 million in funding for rural and remote councils through Roads to Recovery Program providing funding for road works in regional areas.

### **Regional Air Services**

\$14 million over four years to amend the current Airservices Australia Enroute Charges Payment Scheme to support regional operators to have their enroute navigation charges fully refunded by the Government across the network.

**Consolidation of Remote Aviation Programs**

\$25.1 million to integrate infrastructure and service delivery components through consolidation of remote aviation support programs into the Regional Aviation Access Program.

**Sydney Airport**

\$8.5 million to jointly develop with NSW Government an Aviation Strategic Plan for the Sydney Region.

**Regional Airports**

\$5.9 million over 2 years to upgrade 19 remote air strips.

**Nature Based Tourism Measures****Great Barrier Reef**

\$12 million over two years for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's baseline funding, measures to improve the outlook of the Reef, repair and upgrade critical infrastructure.

**Gippsland Lakes and Lakes Entrance**

\$11 million to improve commercial fishing, industry infrastructure, water quality, flood mitigation, construction of jetty and foreshore facilities.

**Regional Marine Planning**

Continuation of \$8.1 million to finalise planning in all marine regions around Australia including starting process for declaring networks of new Commonwealth Marine Reserves.

**Historic Sites**

\$17.7 million over 4 years has been allocated to the national Historic Sites program. This initiative is to assist owners and managers in maintaining and preserving historic sites of national significance.

**Small Business Initiatives****Communications**

\$250 million to roll out 6,000 kilometres of regional fibre links, for 100 regional locations on route to six priority locations as part of the \$43 billion National Broadband Network.

**Accelerated Depreciation**

More than 93 percent of tourism businesses are small businesses. They will benefit from the immediate writeoff of assets valued up to \$5,000. Businesses can take advantage of this deal to upgrade IT and point of sale equipment to help with their online marketing and distribution.

**Reduced Company Tax**

The tourism industry will also significantly benefit from the reduction in the company tax rate from 30 to 28 percent with a headstart from 2012-13. This is expected to deliver an annual indicative saving of \$94 million to the accommodation and food services sectors alone.

**TradeStart Program**

\$14.4 million over four years to maintain TradeStart program. Austrade will assist small and medium businesses to compete in international markets.

**Business Number and Names Registration**

\$125.2 million over five years to continue implementation of a seamless, online registration system for Australian Business Numbers and national business names.

**Regional communities funding**

A further \$110.9 million to assist regions including infrastructure for major events and festivals, and community leisure activities.

**Local Government Financial Assistance Grants**

\$2 billion for local government financial assistance grants including \$1.35 billion for rural and regional councils.

**Regional Development Australia**

\$15 million for RDA committees to support growth and development of Australia's regions.

**Attractions**

**High Court**

\$4.5 million for a structural upgrade of the High Court of Australia's ceremonial forecourt and surrounding precinct.

**Australian National Maritime Museum**

\$8.8 million over three years to construct a multi-purpose extension for the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

**National Museum of Australia**

\$7.0 million over four years to extend the National Museum of Australia's administration building.

**Media contact:** Bindi Gove – 0406 644 913