

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010**

**UK Departure Tax Hike to impact on European Tourism Numbers**

With the increase in the strength of the Australian dollar and the poor state of the European economy already affecting tourist numbers into Western Australia from the United Kingdom and Europe the recent increase by the UK Government in the long haul departure tax will further impact on declining tourist numbers.

The UK Government has increased its departure tax on long haul routes by 55% and similar increases are being introduced by other European countries.

The tax increases are being promoted as an environmental tax but there are doubts that the increased revenue would be used for environmental purposes.

The CEO of Tourism Council WA, Graham Moss said that “the increase in the departure tax from the UK and other European countries will have a significant impact on tourist numbers from this region which is one of WA’s biggest international markets”.

He said that “the tax would increase the cost of a family (2 adults & 2 children) travelling to Australia by about \$546.”

Moss has called on the Federal Government to follow the lead of the New Zealand Government and intervene by calling for a review of the long haul departure tax increase.

“I intend to raise this issue with the Federal Minister for Tourism, Martin Ferguson at a National Tourism Alliance meeting in Canberra on the 15<sup>th</sup> November” Moss said

*END*

For further information please contact:

Graham Moss, Chief Executive Officer - Tourism Council WA on (08) 9416 0700 or 0419 851 140.