

MEDIA STATEMENT
11th March 2011

Minister calls for long-term Industry collaboration

Minister for Resources and Energy; and Tourism, the Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP, addressed Tourism Council WA's Round Table Forum this morning, which was attended by its Gold, Silver and Industry members.

President of Tourism Council WA, Paul King, who sits on one of the Federal Minister's Long-term Tourism Strategy Working Groups commenced the proceedings by highlighting the many challenges the tourism industry both at a federal and state level are facing.

Mr Ferguson demonstrated his strong leadership and understanding of the practical issues that the tourism industry is tackling across Australia.

Speaking passionately the Federal Minister addressed tourism leaders about the headway his working groups are making, addressing such matters as training needs, workforce shortages, breaking down red-tape in order to streamline the approval processes for tourism development and new tourism product.

Mr Ferguson said, "Resource booms come and go therefore there has to be a diversified economy" of which the federal government is fully cognisant of the economic contribution tourism plays in this space.

The Minister spoke of the enormous opportunity Perth has showcasing itself to the world stage with the October 2011 Chief Heads Of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which brings representatives from 54 countries from around the world.

In outlining his vision for tourism, Mr Ferguson, elaborated on the need for better synergies between different industry groups and the tourism sector to achieve long-term, sustainable social and economic benefits.

In closing Mr Ferguson, welcomed two-way collaborative exchange between industry and government.

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