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Nature Based Tourism Review gives boost for sustainable tourism

Tourism Council WA today welcomed the state government's review of nature based tourism and launched their new EcoPlus Module to ensure industry will benefit from the government changes.

Tourism Council WA CEO Evan Hall said "the changes will help tourism to be environmentally and commercially sustainable."

"Changes resulting from the review will ensure that the WA's protected areas will continue to be enjoyed by both current and future generations," said Mr Hall.

"Nature based tourism is an increasingly important part of tourism in Western Australia, attracting a high number of international visitors to the state," said Mr Hall.

As a result of the review, the Department of Environment and Conservation and Tourism WA have released a number of reforms to the way nature-based tourism is managed in Western Australia,

- Longer term licences and leases
- Better communication with industry
- Development of online tools for industry and the public
- Investor ready land through the Naturebank initiative

EcoPlus Accreditation Program

Tourism Council WA has launched the new EcoPlus Accreditation to enable tourism operators to benefit from the government reforms. Operators with the new EcoPlus Accreditation will be eligible for longer T class licences of 1,3, 5, 7 & 10 years and extended E class licences of 10 years.

"Accreditation is a way to ensure that environmental standards of all commercial operators entering protected areas are being met. It allows for operators to apply for longer licences and is in line with Tourism WA's Accreditation policy, ensuring best practice of operators involved in marketing and promotional activities with the agency" said Mr Hall.

"Operators accredited under Tourism Council WA's new EcoPlus Accreditation Module will be able to obtain 10 year licences as part of the reforms."

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