



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

28 March, 2008

HOTELS SUPPORT EARTH HOUR

Australian hotels are embracing Earth Hour 2008.

The AHA estimates up to 70% of our major accommodation hotels are participating in the initiative, which will see businesses around the world turn off their lights for an hour tomorrow night to reduce global warming.

"Hundreds of hotels across Australia have signed up to participate in Earth Hour," said the AHA's Manager – National Accommodation Division, Hamish Arthur.

"To go with this, a high percentage of participating hotels have introduced plenty of special arrangements for the event and some have even made it into an event to celebrate."

Innovations in hotels tomorrow night for Earth Hour include:

- Lit exterior signage will be turned off;
- Non-essential interior lights will be turned off;
- Numerous candlelight dinners are being held in hotel restaurants;
- Guests in hotel rooms are being urged to turn off their lights – in some instances, hotel staff will monitor the use of lights in rooms by standing out the front of the properties and checking;
- Use of air-conditioners will be reduced or they will be turned off; and
- Computers and power points in office areas will be turned off.

"The support that hotels are giving Earth Hour is just one of a number of environmentally-friendly practices that are currently being employed by the industry," Mr Arthur said.

"Hundreds of Australian hotels already have water-saving showerheads installed, give guests the option of not having their sheets and towels changed every day and promote recycling of products.

"As well, hotels are reducing their carbon footprints by signing up with schemes, such as the Green Globe environmental benchmarking and certification program.

"Being sustainable is an extremely high priority for hotels."

For further information:

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The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) is the pre-eminent tourism and hospitality industry organisation in Australia. It has around 5000 members operating general and accommodation hotels. It has a national office and branches in each State and Territory. It also has a discrete branch to represent the interests of its accommodation members that covers four and five-star properties.