



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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HOTEL INDUSTRY ENDORSES TOURISM APPOINTMENT

Australia's hotel industry welcomes today's announcement that Mr Rick Allert AM will become the new Chair of Tourism Australia.

Mr Allert, the current Chair of Coles Group Limited, will take up his new position once he has finalised his existing commitments.

"Rick Allert has experience in a wide variety of areas that are relevant to tourism, through his time with Voyages Hotels and Resorts, Southcorp and the National Wine Centre," said the AHA's Director National Affairs Bill Healey.

"Rick's appointment also highlights the strong link between tourism and the retail sector, which derives significant income from tourists.

"His great understanding of the needs of the modern consumer will be an asset to the future direction of Tourism Australia."

The AHA is also pleased that Mr Grant Hunt, who is a former Chief Executive Officer of Voyages Hotels and a former General Manager of Marina Mirage on the Gold Coast, is joining the board of Tourism Australia.

On behalf of the industry, the AHA has praised outgoing Tourism Australia Chair Tim Fischer and board member Wayne Kirkpatrick, whose term has also expired.

"Tim provided Tourism Australia and tourism in general with outstanding leadership during a time of change," Mr Healey said.

"He played an important role in consolidating the position of Tourism Australia."

AHA President Peter Burnett is a current director of Tourism Australia.

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 operated by the major chains.