



AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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HOTELS ENDORSE 2007 BUDGET

The hotel sector has endorsed this year's Federal Budget.

Speaking on behalf of the industry, AHA Director National Affairs Bill Healey said it was a prudent budget that will provide benefits to every-day Australians without excessively increasing the risk of a rise in interest rates.

"The hotel industry is happy with Treasurer Costello's budget," said Mr Healey. "It should maintain strong economic growth and high employment.

"Given that hotels are one of the largest employers in regional communities, we particularly welcome the support that has been given to address the economic consequences of the drought."

Australian hotels are also delighted with the support for tourism – on two fronts – which should prove to be particularly beneficial for accommodation hotels.

"As a result of this budget, there will be targeted measures for every-day Australians that are likely to maintain and enhance their discretionary spending," Mr Healey said.

"This will mean more money in the pockets of every-day Australians that will hopefully translate to more of them 'taking a break' and using up some of the current stockpile of 70 million days of annual leave.

"The Howard Government also deserves credit for recognising the importance of attracting international visitors to Australia by maintaining the Tourism White Paper funding for a further three years. Additional funds for the Australian Tourism Development Program will also assist in promoting domestic tourism, especially in regional communities.

"The Government and in particular Tourism Minister Fran Bailey have shown they understand how important the Tourism sector is to a modern economy."

For further information:

Bill Healey, Director National Affairs

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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.