



National Tourism Alliance

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tourism Industry Partnership with Government Confirmed

The National Tourism Alliance (NTA) today expressed its strong support for the announcement by the Minister for Small Business and Tourism, the Hon Fran Bailey, that Tourism Australia would remain a separate statutory authority reporting to a Board.

"The Uhrig Review was an important exercise to allow both government and the industry to better understand the importance of Tourism Australia's role in assisting the development and growth of a sustainable tourism industry in Australia", said Col Hughes, Chairman of the National Tourism Alliance.

"Australia is in a very competitive global market. We need the flexibility for Tourism Australia to respond quickly to the needs of the industry, particularly when faced with international crises. The Board model ensures industry involvement in the decision making of Tourism Australia.

Mr Hughes said that the industry was particularly grateful to Minister Bailey for seeking the views of the industry, i.e. that Tourism Australia should remain a statutory authority under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

"The tourism industry is one of the biggest employers of Australians and generates significant value for the Australian economy. We are pleased that the Australian Government through Minister Bailey has seen fit to ensure that an essential element like Tourism Australia can operate in partnership with industry to secure its future," Mr Hughes said.

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