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**SUBJECT:** Tourism Industry Welcomes Convention Centre Vision

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The Tourism Industry Council (ACT & Region) welcomed the announcement by the ACT Opposition on the launch of their proposed new plan for the development of a larger convention centre.

"The current convention centre was cutting edge when first built but we have fallen way behind the other destinations due to our aging infrastructure which lacks the capacity and the flexibility required by modern day conferences," said Tourism Industry Council Executive Director, Kym Cheatham.

The Tourism Industry Council (ACT & Region) was one of the peak bodies which released an industry position paper, *Investing in Canberra's conference infrastructure*, in August 2005 which called for a convention centre that fits Canberra's national capital status and that can compete with centres in other cities in Australia and in the Asia Pacific. As clearly outlined in the position paper, Canberra deserves a convention centre that is "the best and most modern facility of its type in Australia" and connects to its iconic status as the meeting place of a nation.

Tourism Industry Council Executive Director, Kym Cheatham says that convention centres make good economic sense; they deliver substantial economic impact, by providing sizeable employment and increased government revenues. "No wonder the governments in the Northern Territory and in Victoria are developing new convention centres, while Queensland and Western Australia have just opened new facilities on the Gold Coast and in Perth."

"To develop a new convention centre with adjacent hotels, restaurants and residential will take a few years," Ms Cheatham said. "It is important that the consultation and discussion on such a large development begin now."

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The Tourism Industry Council (ACT & Region) Ltd is the peak representative body for the tourism industry in the Australian Capital Territory and wider Capital Region. It is a broadly based, apolitical, lobbying and advocacy organisation committed to providing leadership and fostering tourism industry development for the benefit of all.





## Tourism Industry Council

ACT & Region Ltd

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