

**DATE: May 18 , 2006**

**SUBJECT: Tourism Industry Welcomes Minister Hargreaves Comments on Tourism**

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The Tourism Industry Council (ACT & Region) has welcomed the comments by Minister Hargreaves on Tourism on the front page of today's Canberra Times.

" The industry is delighted to hear from Mr Hargreaves that Australian Capital Tourism Corporation would not be subjected to the cost cutting and efficiency drive that would affect other ACT statutory authorities in the June 6 budget, " said Tourism Industry Council Executive Director, Kym Cheatham.

" This shows the ACT Government has recognised the importance of the tourism industry and show understanding by government that tourism funding directly impacts tourism numbers which in turn directly impacts on jobs and the ACT economy". Ms Cheatham said. "This shows great vision from the ACT Government in supporting the growth potential of the tourism industry even when times are fiscally tough."

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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.

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