

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2003

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Bill is to increase the size of the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) Board from 8 to 10 members; ensure correct reference to the *Industrial Relations Act 1979*; and repeal the WATC's 'sunset clause'.

The changes are the result of consultation with tourism industry operators and stakeholders, and members of the current WATC Board.

Outlined below is an examination of the contents of the Bill on a clause by clause basis.

Clause 1: Short title and citation.

Clause 2: This clause sets out that the proposed Act will come into operation on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3: This clause defines the Act to be amended, which is the *Western Australian Tourism Commission Act 1983*.

Clause 4: This clause seeks to increase the size of the WATC Board from eight to 10 members to provide it with greater diversity of expertise, knowledge and business skills to make informed decisions on an increasingly complex range of tourism issues that come before it.

Many of these decisions have an ability to impact on a variety of different sectors within the tourism industry and as such their consequences need to be understood and taken into account.

Clause 5: This clause is intended to provide accurate reference to the *Industrial Relations Act 1979* which is incorrectly referred to in the current *Western Australian Tourism Commission Act 1983* as the *Industrial Arbitration Act 1979*.

Clause 6: This clause seeks to provide the tourism industry with a degree of certainty about the continuity of the WATC, which was established to accelerate the industry's growth, and provide leadership and support. It also overcomes the ongoing need to seek extensions to the expiry date of the Act via the legislative process.

Section 29 of the *WATC Act 1983* still provides the Minister of the day with the power to undertake a review of the Act, every five years, and in the course of that review, consider the effectiveness of the WATC's operations and the need for the continuation of its functions.

Tourism is a significant contributor to the Western Australian economy from a wealth and job creation perspective and as such is an important part of the State Development portfolio. The WATC is also firmly established as the government's lead agency on tourism matters.