



Ministerial Media Statements

- Major Statements
- By Minister
- By Portfolio
- By Region
- Subscribe

Media Statements



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Recent Statements

[Search All Statements](#)

Media Statements for the last days



Kim Hames
Deputy Premier; Health; Tourism

Fri 11 March, 2011

Tourism recognition for WA

Portfolio: Health

Acting Premier and Tourism Minister Kim Hames has congratulated the Western Australian winners announced tonight at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards for 2010, held in Perth.

WA industry stalwart Ian Laurance was awarded the 'Outstanding Contribution by an Individual' award, and Eco Beach Wilderness Retreat in the Kimberley won the 'Unique Accommodation' category.

"It's great to see Ian Laurance getting national recognition for his contribution to tourism through almost four decades of service in government, business and on numerous industry boards and committees," Dr Hames said.

Mr Laurance has had a long and distinguished career in tourism, including:

- WA Tourism Minister in the early 1980s
- significant involvement with Seaworld and Warner Bros Movie World on the Gold Coast
- appointment as chairman of Australia's North West Tourism
- appointment as vice president of the Tourism Council of WA
- appointment as chairman of the Perth Convention Bureau.

"Ian has played an influential role in Australia's tourism industry and thoroughly deserves this award," the Acting Premier said.

Dr Hames also paid tribute to the Eco Beach Wilderness Retreat for taking out the 'Unique Accommodation' category.

"What a brilliant combination Eco Beach represents - a luxury eco resort in one of the world's great wilderness regions, the Kimberley," he said.

The Minister also applauded the announcement by Federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson that two more WA regions had been added to the prestigious National Landscapes Program, run by Tourism Australia and Parks Australia.

"To have Ningaloo-Shark Bay and the Great South West Edge join the Kimberley in the National Landscapes Program is fantastic," he said.

"WA now has three of the 12 regions in the program, which recognises Australia's great landscapes and promotes areas of outstanding natural beauty and cultural significance."

About 900 people, including 600 from interstate, attended the glittering ceremony.

Minister's office - 9222 8788