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ACCOMMODATION INDUSTRY TO BENEFIT FROM INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The accommodation industry is set to benefit from the Federal Budget's significant investment in infrastructure.

Speaking on behalf of the industry, the Accommodation Association of Australia said Sydney and New South Wales, together with regional Queensland are among the areas which stand to gain the most.

"Investment in new infrastructure and upgrading existing infrastructure directly translates to more visitors staying in accommodation businesses, particularly in regional areas, as well as instilling confidence in our sector to invest and build new properties" said the Association's Chief Executive Officer, Richard Munro.

"The Government's decision to proceed with building the new Western Sydney Airport itself is to be applauded because it helps to ensure this nationally significant piece of infrastructure will, in fact, be built.

"Given Sydney Airport is virtually at capacity, the accommodation industry would welcome the timetable for the commencement of flights at the new Western Sydney Airport to be accelerated.

"In Queensland, the Bruce Highway is one of the single-most important transport corridors for tourism in Australia and therefore, the upgrades of it which were announced in the Budget are important and very welcome.

"The additional funding to promote tourism as part of the recovery from Cyclone Debbie is another plus, in particular the areas affected by the downturn in the resource sector."

The Budget Papers also revealed a change in the level of funding for Tourism Australia.

"There is no doubt that if the accommodation industry is to realise its growth potential, there must be consistent ongoing and increased investment in marketing Australia as an international destination through Tourism Australia," Mr Munro said.

"Tourism industry businesses pay billions of dollars of taxes every year and this needs to be better understood by Canberra public servants who work in the financial portfolios."

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