9 November 2009

Alice Springs Hosts Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference

Environment Minister Karl Hampton today welcomed more than 200 eco tourism specialists to Alice Springs who are in town attending the Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference 2009.

Mr Hampton said Alice Springs was the perfect town to host the conference, with tourists who come to the Territory more likely to be nature visitors than those who choose to visit any other part of Australia.

“The Henderson Government is committed to providing a cleaner and greener environment for all Territorians,” Mr Hampton said.

“This includes protecting and promoting our unique natural and cultural assets that draw visitors here from around Australia and around the world.

“On average, 410,000 domestic visitors to the Territory participate in nature-based activities each year, and around 315,000 international visitors specifically participate in nature-based activities while in Australia.

“These visitors are particularly important to our tourism industry and our wider economy – they stay here longer than those who do not participate in nature activities during their visit.

“That’s why the Territory Government has made a significant investment to promote sustainable tourism among our tourism industry.

“This includes our close working relationship with the Alice Springs community and businesses to make the town the solar capital of Australia.

“The Territory Government also continues piecing together the Territory Eco-link, which aims to create a huge conservation corridor that spans the Territory.

“Territory Eco-link is conservation for the 21st Century, delivering more than 2000km of linked protected areas along a north-south corridor through vital partnerships with various landholders and stakeholders.

“The Territory Government has committed $1.8 million over three years, as part of an election commitment, to create a conservation corridor of national and global significance and has secured a further $600,000 from the Australian Government.

“By working together we can improve our sustainability as an industry and as a global community.”

Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563

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