CONLAN MEETS WITH CRUISE INDUSTRY LEADERS

14 December 2012

Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Matt Conlan, today wrapped up talks with cruise operators Carnival Australia, Royal Caribbean Cruises and Orion Expedition Cruises to explore increased market opportunities.

"The cruise sector has experienced significant growth over recent years and Darwin is well placed to capitalise on this," Mr Conlan said.

"Darwin can expect 42 large cruise ship visits in 2012-13 and it is hoped that by further understanding the needs of the operators and visitors, this number can increase further in coming years.

"During the meetings with the cruise operators, I have expressed my enthusiasm to see the cruise market grow in Darwin.

"I envisage Darwin to become a sought after location for visiting cruise ships.

"The main cruise ship season in Australia is between October and April which also coincides with the Top End’s shoulder season.

“Some visitors on these vessels enjoy half and full-day tours of Darwin and surrounding areas, and it is important to make these widely available and easily accessible.

“Darwin is the gateway to the Northern Territory for cruise visitors and provides the Territory with a significant economic boost.”

Figures have revealed the direct economic impact of the cruise sector in the Territory during 2011-12 was estimated at $64.4 million, according to Cruise Down Under.

Cruise ships visiting Darwin fall predominantly in the large and mid size categories, which have a capacity of up to 2999 berths.

Over 50,000 passengers visited Darwin by cruise ship in 2011-12, along with an additional 24,129 crew members.

Media Contact:
Danielle Lede 0404 515 414