



Wednesday, 6 May 2015

MCB WELCOMES NEWS OF MELBOURNE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE EXPANSION

Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) welcomes the Andrews Labor Government announcement of funding for Stage Two of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre's (MCEC) expansion.

Speaking about the announcement, MCB CEO Karen Bolinger said, "This is exciting news for the Victorian business events sector, and shows that the State Government recognises the substantial role business events play in the Victorian visitor economy."

"Every year MCB secures an average of 175 business events and 59,000 delegates to Victoria which delivers an estimated \$247 million in economic contribution to the state economy. MCEC is one of MCB's key strategic partners and plays host to many events that we secure."

"This financial year alone MCEC has played host to more than 20 international association conferences secured by MCB, including the 20th International AIDS Conference, the 15th Biennial Meeting of International Gynecologic Cancer Society and the World Geothermal Conference. These conferences generated around \$170 million in economic contribution for the state, created more than 1900 jobs and supported the growth of Victorian future industries."

MCB also welcomes the Andrews Labor Government's commitment to ensuring Victoria remains the events capital of Australia with a \$20 million annual boost in investment. Business events is the highest yielding sector of tourism and increased investment in MCB now will deliver more lucrative business events to Victoria, just in time for the completed MCEC expansion.

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