

MEDIA RELEASE

Chair of Tourism Accommodation Australia departs in lead up to establishment of the new ‘One Voice’ organisation

14 October 2014: The Chair of Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA), Mr Tony South, has announced that he will step down as Chair in the lead up to the formation of a new, unified organisation to represent the interests of the Australian accommodation sector.

Mr South’s announcement follows the resignation of TAA Managing Director of Rodger Powell, who left the organisation at the end of September.

AHA National President, Mr Peter Burnett, thanked Mr South and Mr Powell for their contribution in establishing TAA as a powerful and highly effective advocacy body for the hotel accommodation sector.

“Together, Rodger and Tony have worked tirelessly to achieve the best outcomes for the accommodation sector,” said Mr Burnett. “They are widely respected across the industry for their insight and drive, and during their time at TAA, they made significant progress with Government in terms of gaining support for the industry in areas such as industrial relations, tourism marketing and relaxation of visa rules.”

Mr South was Chair of TAA for nearly three years, and will retain his involvement in the industry through his recent appointment to the Board of Tourism Australia.

Mr South and Mr Powell leave TAA as the organisation works towards a new Joint Venture with the Accommodation Association of Australia (AAoA) to create a single organisation to represent the accommodation sector. A Steering Committee, established by the AHA and AAoA, is currently drawing up plans for the new organisation, with a Board and new Chair for the JV organisation expected to be appointed by the end of the year.

In announcing his intention to step down, Mr South paid tribute to the efforts of Rodger Powell and his Board for making TAA such a strong advocate for the industry, and said that the move towards a single representative entity for the accommodation sector was an important initiative for the industry.

“I’m passionate about prospects for our JV with AAoA,” he said. “It will only be with a combined organisation that we’ll harness all the attributes we have individually, and, as two currently separate organisations. With one body will come a maximised ability to get the job done.”

Mr South explained his decision was not taken lightly: “Attractive as it was to continue in the role, I’ve reluctantly decided not to. The next phase of the JV will be critical in establishing a long term platform. It requires more time and commitment than I’m able to make given my other Board roles.”

Mr Burnett said that in the interim period before the new organisation was established, Ms Carol Giuseppi, the current NSW CEO for Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA), will take on the position of Interim CEO for the national TAA organisation.

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