

MEDIA STATEMENT

New CEO for Caravan Industry Association

The Caravan Industry Association WA (Inc) has appointed former State Shadow Minister for Tourism and Member for Carine, Katie Hodson-Thomas, to the position of Chief Executive Officer.

Ms Hodson-Thomas represented the electorate of Carine for 12 years and has extensive experience in the tourism sector after being responsible for the shadow tourism portfolio during her last term of office, and being employed as Special Counsel - Government Relations and Policy for the Australian Hotels Association (WA) and Corporate Affairs Manager for the Tourism Council WA since retiring from State Parliament in 2008.

Ms Hodson-Thomas said the caravan industry has undergone significant transformation and experienced considerable growth over the past five years and plays an important role in driving leisure tourism business in Western Australia.

"I am very excited about taking on the position of Chief Executive Officer for an industry association that represents businesses directly responsible for marketing and servicing the caravan and camping sector," Ms Hodson-Thomas said.

"Over the past five years, we have seen more Western Australians taking to the roads in caravans to travel around the magnificent landmarks and scenery we have on offer and camping at parks and villages around the State.

"Coupled with the increase in intrastate visitation in the sector, we have also experienced an increase of interstate visitation.

"The potential for the caravan and camping sector in the future is exciting with international visitors to Western Australia also on the increase.

"I look forward to representing caravan parks, caravan dealers and manufacturers, dedicated residential lifestyle villages and service providers at all levels into the future whose chief objective is to preserve the affordability and lifestyle for Western Australians and visitors to our State."

John Green, President of Caravan Industry Association WA (Inc) said the committee was delighted with Ms Hodson-Thomas' appointment, as CEO effective 1 July 2011, following the retirement of Pat Strahan after 15 years with the Caravan Industry Association WA.

"Pat Strahan has been an outstanding contributor to the caravan industry in WA over a long period of time," Mr Green said.

"Pat has been instrumental in building the Association to the significant position it now holds as the peak body for the industry at all levels of government, and in particular the growth of the Caravan and Camping Show. Her enthusiasm, passion and energy for the industry will not be lost, as we are fortunate to retain her services for the event management of the Caravan and Camping Show."

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