

## **George Souris MP**

Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing Minister for the Arts

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Boom in NSW Caravanning and Camping Holidays**

Camping and caravanning has reached record rates in NSW and the industry should be congratulated for promoting a strong holiday season, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris, said today.

"It's terrific that caravan parks in NSW are reporting higher occupancy rates this year, with some parks experiencing an increase in bookings of more than 10 per cent, compared to 2011-2012," Mr Souris said.

"Camping and caravanning currently represents 10 per cent of all visitor nights in Australia and one third of those nights are spent in NSW."

"The sector contributes about \$1.7 billion to NSW's economy, with more than 90 per cent of camping and caravan nights spent in regional areas.

"It is quite obvious from the most recent figures that caravanning and camping is one of the most popular forms of family holidays with an increase number choosing this way to spend their vacations".

Destination NSW CEO, Sandra Chipchase, said: "Camping and caravanning contributes more than 10 million visitor nights in regional NSW, benefitting local communities and small businesses."

"During 2012-2013, Destination NSW, together with the Caravan and Camping Industry Association, are promoting unique attractions in regional NSW for families and couples who enjoy caravanning."

"Our summer campaigns, at visitnsw.com, showcase the wonderful range of NSW regions and camping options for holiday makers, which are family friendly and great value."

Caravan and Camping Industry Association NSW CEO, Ms Lyndel Gray, said: "NSW caravan holiday parks continue to be popular holiday choices, as they have a huge range of activities and facilities, including resort style swimming pools, water parks, kids clubs and cafés."

"In NSW, our caravan holiday parks are located in some of the most pristine, untouched environments, often only steps from some of the best National Parks and beaches in Australia."

"Whether you are towing a caravan, pitching a tent or staying in a luxury cabin, caravan and camping holidays provide freedom and flexibility."