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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Tuesday 11 September, 2012

### **Priscilla Finds New Home in Broken Hill**

Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris, today announced that the most famous bus on earth, known as 'Priscilla', is going to its spiritual home – Broken Hill - with the support of the NSW Government.

"Priscilla was one of the stars of the 1994 world-acclaimed film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, and it is only fitting that it will soon reside in Broken Hill," Mr. Souris said.

Mr Souris said that Destination NSW would share the cost of transporting the bus from Sydney to Broken Hill where it will become an important tourist attraction.

The writer/director of the 2006 stage production and owner of Priscilla, Stephan Elliott, has forgone a \$1 million private offer and has kindly donated the lavender-hued Greyhound bus to the Broken Hill City Council, which will contribute half the cost of transporting Priscilla to its new home.

"*The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert* was a massive film and stage hit, drawing huge audiences and critical acclaim from all over the world. It is fitting we should preserve one of our cultural giants, so I am pleased that the NSW government and the Broken Hill City Council will share the cost of returning Priscilla to its 'spiritual' home of Broken Hill where much of the movie was shot".

The comedy-drama was written and directed by Stephan Elliott and is about the adventures of three 'drag queens' (Hugo Weaving, Guy Pearce, and Terence Stamp) who travel across the Outback on a tour bus called Priscilla.

"Described as the 'road movie with attitude,' the film has become a classic, which deserves memorial in the pantheon of great Australian movies.

"By preserving Priscilla we not only pay homage to its contribution to its role in successful Australian films, but also give it a new lease of life as a tourist attraction that contributes to the economic and social wellbeing of the Broken Hill area."

Member for Murray-Darling, John Williams MP, said he was delighted that the Priscilla bus would be relocated to Broken Hill where it was associated with the real heart of Outback Australia.

"Broken Hill City Council is drawing up plans for an appropriate permanent home for the Priscilla bus and is inviting the Broken Hill community to submit ideas on how it can be best utilised as a tourist attraction," Mr Williams said.

"With 153,000 overnight visitors to Broken Hill who spend \$62 million each year, the Priscilla bus will be another reason for tourists to visit this historic outback city.