



MEDIA RELEASE

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\$2.25 million funding now available for tourism in Regional NSW

Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris, today announced that \$2.25 million is now available for regional tourism providers, who can apply for funding from the second contestable round of the NSW Government's Regional Visitor Economy Fund.

"I recently announced total funding of \$7.2 million for the regional tourism industry for the 2013-2014 financial year. This second contestable round will make another \$2.25 million available. I encourage all NSW tourism operators to apply," Mr Souris said.

"The Regional Visitor Economy Fund is assisting regional tourism providers to improve products and services, as well as promoting their destinations to international and domestic visitors.

"NSW is Australia's premier state and Regional NSW provides a diverse range of leisure, adventure, food and wine, cultural and major events experiences for visitors.

The Regional Visitor Economy Fund is a \$21.6 million, three year commitment and is a key component of the NSW Government's *Visitor Economy Industry Action Plan*. The Regional Visitor Economy Fund represents a \$6 million funding increase for Regional NSW.

The Fund for 2013-2014 includes a grant pool of \$3.7 million which was quarantined for Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs), while a further \$3.5 million has been made available through two contestable rounds of funds open for industry, local government and RTOs.

Tourism providers may apply for both marketing and product development funding which will be awarded through a competitive application process.

"Tourism to Regional NSW is vital to rebuilding the NSW economy. Visitor expenditure in Regional NSW was worth more than \$13.1 billion to year end June 2013, an increase of more than 6.1 per cent compared to year end June 2012," Mr Souris said.

Destination NSW CEO, Sandra Chipchase, said "Applications for the second round of the Regional Visitor Economy Fund are now open and close on **Friday 31 January 2014**. We have also made the application process simpler this Round, with the introduction of a new online web based form."

Further information on the Regional Visitor Economy Fund, including *Guidelines*, *Frequently Asked Questions* and the *RVEF Application Form*, is available on the Destination NSW website, at: www.destinationnsw.com.au/rvef