

11 June 2013
The Hon Gary Grey AO MP
Minister for Tourism
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia



Dear Minister,

Seasonal Worker Program – extension across Western Australia

Thank you for our meeting on 7 June 2013 to discuss federal tourism reforms which would develop the Western Australian tourism industry, including changes to the Seasonal Worker Program (SWP).

The SWP enables seasonal workers from eight Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste to work with Australian employers who cannot find enough local labour to satisfy seasonal demand. The first time the SWP was extended to include tourism jobs was a one year pilot in Broome. That initial pilot allowed for Timorese workers to fill tourism jobs in the Shire of Broome.

Following that first season the pilot was extended to become a three year pilot for seasonal workers in accommodation jobs only but applying to all of the Northern Territory, Kangaroo Island, Northern Queensland and the Whitsundays.

The SWP has been exceptionally successful in Broome over the previous two tourism seasons and into this year's peak season. Award winning tourism businesses such as Cable Beach Club and Eco Beach have embraced the program to the benefit of both the Timorese workers and the tourism industry. However only a small number of accommodation businesses are eligible in Broome as the new three year pilot does not apply to tourism jobs and remained limited to the Shire of Broome.

The Western Australian tourism industry has local labour shortages across all occupations, regions and seasons in Western Australia, for which the SWP would be ideally suited. The Tourism Council WA is seeking for the SWP to be extended across all of Western Australia's five tourism regions, as is the case for the Northern Territory. Ideally we would also like to see the program return to applying to tourism jobs beyond accommodation such as assisting with land and marine tours.

Tourism Council WA requests your support to amend the current Seasonal Worker Program to allow the program to apply to tourism jobs across all regions and season in Western Australia. Please contact me on 0407 284 090 or ehall@tourismcouncil.wa.com should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Hall".

Evan Hall
Chief Executive Officer

