



MEDIA STATEMENT

LJILJANNA RAVLICH MLC

Shadow Minister for Commerce; Small Business; Government Accountability;
Tourism; Training

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Future of Tourism WA regional offices hangs in the balance

Tourism Minister Liz Constable must reveal her plan for Tourism WA regional offices and put the fears of regional office staff and their clients to rest, Shadow Tourism Minister Ljiljanna Ravlich said today.

Regional offices are based in Broome, Hedland, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany and Kalgoorlie.

In Parliament yesterday, Ms Ravlich warned the delayed announcement of the restructure of Tourism WA was causing severe pain and permanent damage to the now directionless industry.

“The industry strongly suspects Tourism WA’s industry development division will be the first to face abolition given a funding commitment has not yet been made,” she said.

“Separate union, industry and public service sources have confirmed the Government’s intentions.

“It is unclear if the four directors of this division and their staff will follow the executive director and leave their positions.

“The loss of the industry development division, which is responsible for Tourism WA’s regional tourism offices, will be a cruel blow for regional tourism.”

Ms Ravlich said regional tourism offices were the face of tourism in WA and were responsible for regional tourism policy, planning and product development.

“The services they provide are the most needed by industry and include destination and product development, operator support and education, advice on infrastructure and investment and strategic policy,” Ms Ravlich said.

“Many local tourism operators, as well as prospective operators, will struggle without this specialised support, assistance and professional advice.

“At a time when WA’s regional tourism needs support, the Barnett Government is turning its back on the industry by withdrawing support.”

Ms Ravlich said the Tourism Minister was turning her back on the tourism industry.

“The impact of the Tourism WA restructure on regional tourism could be devastating,” she said.

“Regional tourism is a major driver of the Western Australian economy.

“The Barnett Government must immediately reveal its plans for regional tourism.”

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