

EDITOR: BONNIE TAI



## TTF CALLS FOR \$10M FUNDING FOR BIZ EVENTS

**THE** Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) is calling for the Australian Government to commit \$10 million per annum over four years towards a National Business Events Fund to support bid acquisitions with true national significance.

If approved, the funds would only be expended if a bid is won and would only apply to bids that meet the criteria of being deemed nationally significant for a city or region.

Business events generate a total of \$28 billion in direct expenditure and supported 179,357 jobs, however TTF warned in its 2017-18 Federal Budget submission that Australia's market share may soon dip.

"While Australia does well in attracting international conferences, its market share is declining in the face of both



improved convention facilities and more aggressive bidding elsewhere in the world," TTF wrote in its proposal.

The tourism and transport body backed up its claims by pointing to a report by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA)

which found that Australia's global ranking for MICE activity was slowly moving down the ladder, with the country slipping from 7th place in 2000 to 15th in 2015.

"As a sector, TTF is not looking for a Budget that just delivers for 2017-18 or even a budget

that delivers for the four years of the forward estimates," the TTF submission says.

"The sector is looking for a Budget that can generate the level of confidence and facilitate the types of investments that will propel the industry forward into the coming decades."

According to the ICCA's report, Australia has generally attracted around 2.1% of all international business events.

TTF's business events submission is part of a wider initiative to provide input into the Federal Budget, ensuring national policy settings are conducive to generating jobs.

**Today's issue of BEN**  
*Business Events News* today has two pages of news.



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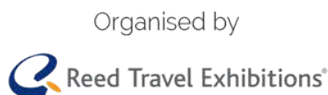
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## Events Calendar

WELCOME to the **BEN** events calendar.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@businesseventsnews.com.au](mailto:info@businesseventsnews.com.au)

### 9 FEB

Gold Coast Connect Brisbane; Grand Ballroom, Hotel Grand Chancellor Brisbane; to RSVP see [goldcoast.simpleviewinc.com](http://goldcoast.simpleviewinc.com)

### 21-22 FEB

AIME 2017; Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more info visit [www.aime.com.au](http://www.aime.com.au)

### 6 MAR

DMS Connect; Ivy Ballroom, Sydney; for details see [www.destinationmarketing.com.au](http://www.destinationmarketing.com.au)

### 7 MAR

DMS Connect; Park Hyatt Melbourne; for details see [www.destinationmarketing.com.au](http://www.destinationmarketing.com.au)

### 8-12 MAR

ITB 2017; Messe Berlin ExpoCenter City; for more info visit: [www.itb-berlin.de](http://www.itb-berlin.de)

### 9 MAR

DMS Connect; The Maritime Room, Auckland; for details see [www.destinationmarketing.com.au](http://www.destinationmarketing.com.au)

### 30 APR - 2 MAY

MEA Conference; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); for more info see: [www.meetingevents.com.au](http://www.meetingevents.com.au)

### 14-18 MAY

ATE 2017; International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC); details at: [www.tradeevents.australia.com](http://www.tradeevents.australia.com)

## REED TO DROP AIME

**REED** Travel Exhibitions, who has successfully organised the Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo (AIME) for more than a decade, has opted to not re-tender for the management contract after it expires in 2018.

"After many years organising the award-winning AIME in Melbourne, and having enjoyed a positive and collaborative working relationship with Melbourne Convention Bureau during that time, Reed Travel Exhibitions has decided not to tender for the management contract," said Kerry Prince, portfolio director, ibtm events.

"The decision will allow us to focus on our core portfolio of



owned shows, which includes our flagship ibtm world event held in Barcelona," she said.

The Melbourne Convention Bureau is currently inviting expressions of interests from exhibition and event organisations to undertake the management of AIME for the 2019-2020 period.

## Kangaroo Bay project approved

**TASMANIA'S** Clarence Bay City Council has approved a \$50 million hotel and hospitality development at Kangaroo Bay.

The project includes a 120-room four to five star hotel and a new hospitality training school run by TasTAFE and Shandong Chambroad.

"The Kangaroo Bay development will create hundreds of jobs during the construction phase and deliver ongoing economic benefits not just for the eastern shore, but the whole region," said Nic Street, local state MP.

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## AccorHotels opens Fairmont Chengdu

**FAIRMONT** Chengdu has opened in the capital city of China's Sichuan province.

The 336-key property offers 11 meeting rooms and function spaces, a 730m<sup>2</sup> grand ballroom and an adjoining VIP room.

Onsite facilities include four restaurants with seven dining concepts, a fitness centre, indoor pool, a spa and much more.

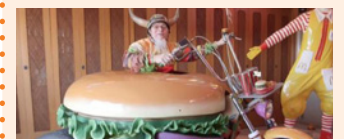
The latest debut of Fairmont Chengdu marks AccorHotels' 200th property in Greater China.



■ **FAST** food enthusiast Harry Sperl, dubbed the Burger King, has been awarded the Guinness World Record for "Largest collection of hamburger related items".

His merchandise totals 3,724 items and includes a hamburger-shaped Harley Davidson, a burger waterbed, happy meal toys and burger posters.

Sperl said his passion for hamburger memorabilia started from his belief that the burger represented the core of American culture.



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