

26/06/2009

## **Tourism WA welcomes plan to build national Indigenous cultural centre**

Tourism Western Australia Chairman Kate Lamont has today welcomed the State Government's plan to build Australia's first national Aboriginal cultural centre on Noongar land along the Swan River waterfront.

"We applaud Premier Colin Barnett's plans for the waterfront development, particularly the proposed creation of a landmark civic building of national importance, to celebrate Aboriginal history and heritage," she said.

"Embracing Aboriginal language, customs, art, dance, music and stories will be a significant competitive advantage for our city and our State."

"The centre would provide the Noongar people with the opportunity to be founders, and position them to invite other Indigenous people throughout Australia to showcase their arts and culture".

"Additionally a place of this kind will provide an opportunity for rarely seen private collections of indigenous art and artefacts to be displayed which will create unique experiences for our citizens and our visitors."

"Having a focal point such as this to showcase the depth and breadth of Aboriginal art, history and culture will attract national and international attention."

Ms Lamont said the Swan River waterfront was the ideal location for such a building.

"There is a tremendous opportunity to locate something on the waterfront that is world class and we look forward to seeing designs for a building that is iconic in structure and content will come to be recognised around the world."

"The Premier's waterfront announcement has provided the certainty that investors and developers need and it will provide a vital platform for new hotels and serviced apartments to address the shortage of short stay accommodation in Perth."

"Additionally the mixed use nature will provide opportunities for small business which are an essential element to creating active and lively places."

---

**Media contact:** Andrew Kikiros, Manager Media and Public Relations 9262 1750.