



Press Release - 9 July, 2009

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE LANDS IN MELBOURNE

Industry and Trade Minister Martin Pakula announced today that Melbourne will host the 2010 International Air Transport Association (IATA) Schedules Conference, one of the largest international aviation conferences held in Australia.

Mr Pakula said the IATA event would attract over 1,100 delegates from 300 airlines and 200 airports to the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in November 2010.

“By attracting significant events such as this to Victoria, the Brumby Labor Government is taking action now to secure the jobs of Victorians,” Mr Pakula said.

“The aviation and aerospace industry contributes an estimated \$600 million to the Victorian economy and employs more than 20,000 people. The IATA Schedules Conference will help attract more air services to Victoria by enhancing our global profile among key airline planners.

“This is the latest in a series of aviation wins facilitated by the Victorian Government including new domestic Melbourne-Sydney services by Tiger Airways that commenced last week and significant international expansion by carriers including Etihad, Emirates and Air Asia X.”

Mr Pakula said that visitors to the convention will have a first-hand look at Melbourne Airport and the \$330 million expansion it is currently undergoing.

“Melbourne Airport continues to lead the major Australian airports in international passenger growth. Handling a record 377,277 international passengers this May, the airport has seen an increase of 4.4 per cent in passenger numbers since May 2008,” he said.

Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau CEO Sandra Chipchase said hosting the IATA conference would showcase Melbourne’s exceptional convention facilities and the many outstanding visitor experiences which draw delegates here.

“Winning this conference highlights Victoria’s strengths in working collectively to attract business events. We thank the State Government, Tourism Victoria, Melbourne Airport and City of Melbourne for working with us to secure this event for Melbourne,” Ms Chipchase said.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said the City of Melbourne was very pleased to play host to the IATA Schedules Conference in 2010.

“This major event will provide a great opportunity to showcase Melbourne and the new state-of-the-art Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre plus our other famous Melbourne attractions such as the cafe-filled laneways, funky boutiques, cool bars and unbeatable galleries,” Mr Doyle said.

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre Chief Executive Leigh Harry said the IATA conference would showcase the centre to many of the world’s leading air travel specialists.

“We are delighted to be welcoming the IATA Schedules Conference to Melbourne and to the Melbourne Convention Centre. The bi-annual Schedules Conference is IATA’s largest event and the MCEC looks forward to hosting it in 2010,” Mr Harry said.

Media enquiries: Brooke Daly, MCVB Communications Manager, email: brooke.daly@mcvb.com.au