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## **ACCOMMODATION HOTELS KEY DRIVER OF THE NSW ECONOMY**

New research by Deloitte Access Economics has found Accommodation hotels are employing more people and contributing more to the NSW economy than ever before.

Accommodation Australia NSW General Manager Stacey McBride said the latest research found the Association's 350 members – ranging from small regional motels and serviced apartments to large local and international hotels – were punching well above their economic weight.

"Our members generated \$2.7 billion in revenue last financial year and contributed \$2.2 billion in value to the state economy," said Ms McBride.

"We provided 34,600 rooms for short-term accommodation last year - with more than 36 per cent of those in the regions.

"Our members directly employ 27,500 workers; this includes 11,400 full-time workers, 5,900 part-time workers and 10,200 casual workers.

"The majority of our workforce are aged between 25 - 44, and 61 per cent of our staff are women."

Accommodation Australia CEO James Goodwin said NSW really was the engine room of national tourism.

"These figures show just how important the health of our sector is not only to the NSW economy but to the entire nation. As the Federal Election draws near this is a reminder that we need the right policy settings to encourage industry investment to promote a thriving visitor economy," said Mr Goodwin.

The research, commissioned by AHA NSW, found that member hotels source the majority of their intermediate inputs from local suppliers (77 per cent of expenditure) – ensuring the bulk of the flow-on economic activity is retained within the state.

The report also found accommodation hotels, in conjunction with pubs, host more than 90,000 business meetings and conferences, more than 89,000 sporting and community group meetings and more than 79,000 social functions such as weddings or parties annually.

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