

Economics and Industry Standing Committee  
Parliament House, Perth WA 6000  
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## INQUIRY INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission.

By way of background - the EIA is a leading voice in WA for the Events Industry. We are a not-for-profit, member-based organisation funded by annual membership fees and attendance at our events. Now in our 26<sup>th</sup> year, we are the only association that is dedicated to supporting and representing the interests of our industry, (Promoters, Event Mangers, Conference & Seminar Organisers, Venues and Suppliers).

Given this background and involvement, we welcome the opportunity to provide input.

Our comments focus on Tourism, the staging of events of a sporting and cultural nature. In recent months, there has been strong evidence that the conduct of major events has attracted mega visitation, particularly from overseas sources.

WA governments have for many years, identified the potential to attract visitors from India. Regrettably, difficulty with visa approvals has prevented any significant growth. We understand that this impediment has been overcome and the future is looking positive.

The EIA is very supportive of the WA Government in their quest to develop close trade and tourism relationships with India. The economic benefits of staging events, both in Perth and in regional WA are well documented. There is a substantial flow-on effect to the staging major events as the entire WA community is exposed to Indian culture and food.

This is a very positive aspect with WA being a multi- cultural society.

The EIA encourages the WA Government to continue pursuing further development of tourism visitation from India with the view to staging events and stimulating attendance.

Our comments are submitted for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

*Ray Bird*

Ray Bird  
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