

News Release **Minister Leon Bignell**

Minister for Tourism

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\$160 million boost for Adelaide's conference and convention hub

Conferences scheduled for the Adelaide Convention Centre during the next three years will boost the South Australian economy by at least \$160 million.

Tourism Minister, Leon Bignell, said this figure was expected to rise to more than \$200 million as new forward bookings are confirmed.

Among the new events secured by the Centre are the 800 delegate *2014 Asia Pacific Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition* and the Australian Gastroenterological Society's 2016 annual meeting which will attract 1000 delegates.

The bookings come as work on Stage 1 of the \$350 million redevelopment reaches a key phase with the installation of the highest part of the steel structure, or 'topping out'.

More than 300 construction jobs have been created by the project with hundreds of catering and hospitality positions to follow once the works have been completed.

"During the next three years, on current bookings alone, 55,000 people will visit the Adelaide Convention Centre from interstate and overseas, generating 180,000 bed nights for the hotel industry," Mr Bignell said.

"With Adelaide just being named in Lonely Planet's top 10 cities in the world to visit in 2014, the Convention Centre can expect to attract even more conferences and conventions from around Australia and the world.

"This redevelopment, along with other work being done along the Riverbank precinct, is making Adelaide a more appealing conference and convention destination.

"These two conferences alone will attract a total of 1800 delegates and provide local hotels with 5879 bed nights, injecting \$4.86 million into the local economy.

Other scheduled events include the Royal Australian Chemistry Institute National Congress 2014 which will draw 1000 delegates and provide a \$4 million economic benefit to the State.

"With the new South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and Royal Adelaide Hospital so close to the Centre, we expect to attract many more health and medical conferences," Mr Bignell said.

Adelaide Convention Centre Chief Executive Alec Gilbert said the Centre was performing well despite significant international and national economic challenges.

"Conference organisers are increasingly looking for more value and greater support from the host destination and the Centre has responded by keeping well ahead of changing demands from conference organisers and delegates," Mr Gilbert said.

For more information on the Adelaide Convention Centre, or to view a fly-through of the Riverbank redevelopment, visit www.adelaidecc.com.au