JENNY MACKLIN MP

Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

WARREN SNOWDON MP

Minister for Indigenous Health Member for Lingiari

5 August 2011

Opening of the Wildman Wilderness Lodge

A new eco-resort in the Northern Territory will provide employment and investment opportunities for Indigenous Australians, while offering tourists a stunning wilderness experience.

The Wildman Wilderness Lodge – located halfway between Darwin and Kakadu National Park – is owned by Indigenous Business Australia (IBA).

Officially opening the Lodge today, Minister for Indigenous Health and Member for Lingiari Warren Snowdon said the resort offered its guests the opportunity to explore the Mary River Wetlands.

"This is a magnificent area of floodplains and billabongs; home to an abundance of birdlife, fish and the iconic saltwater crocodiles," Mr Snowdon said.

"You stay in 5-star luxury with 5-star wilderness on your doorstep."

Federal Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, said the resort offered opportunities for Traditional Owners to unlock the wealth potential of their land.

"There are already two local Indigenous Australians employed at Wildman operating the various tour options available to guests. Further opportunities for Indigenous involvement through business and employment in the resort and associated operations are being explored," Ms Macklin said.

"I congratulate IBA and Anthology, The Traveller's Collection on the hard work that has gone into making this resort a reality."

IBA acquired the Wildman site in 2006.

The resort offers 5-star accommodation in either luxury air conditioned cabins or newly constructed spacious custom designed safari tents.

The resort is operated by Anthology, which is responsible for marketing and managing the business. Anthology also operates the Wilpena Pound Resort in South Australia, and the Bay of Fires Lodge and Cradle Mountain Huts in Tasmania.

IBA is committed to Indigenous economic development through the provision of home loans, small business development and specialised joint venture opportunities, such as Wildman, for Indigenous Australians.

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