

Brendan Smyth MLA
Member for Brindabella
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Treasurer; Shadow Minister for Economic Development, Business & Tourism;
Emergency Services; Territory Owned Corporations; Gaming & Racing
Media Release
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ACT TOURISM PLUMMETS

ACT tourism has declined by 16 per cent, highlighting Andrew Barr's inability to achieve growth in this important industry, ACT Shadow Tourism Minister Brendan Smyth said today.

"According to Tourism Research Australia, the number of tourists to the ACT dropped by 16 per cent between 2003-04 and 2010-11," Mr Smyth said.

"In 2003-04, the total number of visitors to the ACT was 4,013,000, compared to a total of 3,374,000 visitors in 2010-11, showing a substantial decline of around 640,000 people.

"ACT tourist numbers have dropped across the board, in all three categories of day visitors, overnight visitors and international visitors.

"The ACT Labor Government slashed ACT tourism funding in the 2006 Budget and it is clear that the industry hasn't recovered.

"Despite Andrew Barr's recent suggestion that tourism numbers are improving, we still aren't at the 2003 levels. It's time for this government to stop selectively quoting figures to gloss over the real issues.

"Andrew Barr is interested in tourism photo opportunities but not in developing long-term strategies which are vital to the ACT's future tourism viability.

"I call on Andrew Barr to commit to the ACT's industry through programs which aim to lift these dire tourism numbers," Mr Smyth concluded.

Attachment: Tourism Research Australia statistics.

ACT TOURIST STATISTICS

Quarter	Domestic		International	Total
	Day	Overnight		
2003-04				
September	428,000	549,000	39,000	1,016,000
December	537,000	584,000	52,000	1,173,000
March	353,000	492,000	52,000	897,000
June	417,000	479,000	32,000	928,000
Total	1,735,000	2,103,000	175,000	4,013,000
2004-05				
September	220,000	429,000	39,000	688,000
December	432,000	487,000	37,000	956,000
March	427,000	523,000	46,000	996,000
June	379,000	479,000	32,000	890,000
Total	1,458,000	1,918,000	154,000	3,530,000
2005-06				
September	273,000	577,000	32,000	882,000
December	349,000	425,000	48,000	822,000
March	303,000	450,000	47,000	800,000
June	342,000	554,000	28,000	924,000
Total	1,267,000	2,006,000	155,000	3,428,000
2006-07				
September	350,000	457,000	34,000	840,928
December	357,000	446,000	45,000	847,402
March	406,000	504,000	46,000	955,507
June	528,000	476,000	33,000	1,038,163
	1,640,000	1,883,000	158,000	3,681,000
2007-08				
September	414,000	525,000	40,000	979,000
December	333,000	459,000	46,000	838,000
March	308,000	460,000	46,000	814,000
June	362,000	478,000	29,000	869,000
	1,417,000	1,922,000	161,000	3,500,000
2008-09				
September	392,000	521,000	39,000	952,000
December	347,000	470,000	43,000	860,000
March	378,000	505,000	46,000	929,000
June	319,000	402,000	31,000	752,000
	1,436,000	1,898,000	159,000	3,493,000
2009-10				
September	314,000	406,000	32,000	752,000
December	456,000	414,000	46,000	916,000
March	310,000	612,000	46,000	968,000
June	558,000	551,000	29,000	1,138,000
	1,638,000	1,983,000	153,000	3,774,000
2010-11				
September	361,000	455,000	34,000	850,000
December	386,000	446,000	46,000	878,000
March	368,000	384,000	50,000	802,000
June	374,000	439,000	31,000	844,000
	1,489,000	1,724,000	161,000	3,374,000