



FOSS4G 2009 presented by OSGeo  
Sydney, Australia

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- The OSGeo Aust-NZ Chapter welcomes the opportunity to bid for FOSS4G in 2009. Our bid has the **full support** of the Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau and its partners the New South Wales Government; the City of Sydney; and the city's business tourism industry.
- Australia has had a history of participation in OSGeo at a project level and presentations at past conferences. FOSS4G in Australia will increase the **global reach** and the understanding of the organisation and its mission. Sydney as the host city for FOSS4G 2009 will assist in the promotion of OSGeo as the **community hub for GeoFOSS practitioners within Australia and the Asia Pacific region.**
- TBD: Win themes are:
  - Strong local OSGeo participation
  - We will expand OSGeo by engaging the suits in the Government sector user base. Strong backing from government users in Australia.
  - Professional conference: Profession backing and support from the self funded SCVB, and engagement of a Professional Conference Organiser.
  - Professional conference: Partnering with Linux Australia with established experience holding large conferences.
  - All the physical aspects of Sydney as provided by SCVB.
- Sydney venues are located within or close to the central business district, with accommodation available to suit all tastes and budgets. The proposed venue for FOSS4G 2009 is the University of New South Wales, which can provide access to high speed connections and is capable of accommodating specialised workshops.
- Sydney, one of the world's most highly awarded cities, is the **gateway to Australia and is accessible to all delegates** with over 40 passenger airlines flying into Sydney International Airport and over 500 flights arriving per week. To the Asia Pacific region alone, Sydney has 248 departures weekly.<sup>1</sup> This makes Sydney a highly accessible location for delegates travelling from Asia.
- **Sydney is an extremely cost-effective city.** A stay in Sydney costs significantly less than an average stay Washington, London, Seoul or Singapore.
- Sydney and Australia's high desirability as a destination, will assist in **attracting more delegates** to the conference. In many cases Sydney draws larger attendance levels than previously staged conferences.
- The **internationally competitive rates and excellent range of accommodation** in Sydney provide a variety of choices to suit all delegates. The entire Sydney region has over 32,500 hotel,

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<sup>1</sup> Sydney International Airport, 2007

motel rooms and serviced apartments. The average cost of a night's stay in a Sydney hotel is approximately \$AUD142 per room.<sup>2</sup>

- Sydney has leisure opportunities to satisfy and delight everyone. Many wonderful pre and post touring destinations are less than three hours fly or drive from Sydney.
- We believe Sydney will exceed all expectations for a memorable Conference and look forward to the opportunity to welcome FOSS4G to Sydney, Australia in 2009

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<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Tourism Data, June 2007.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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**SECTION ONE**

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**LOCAL ORGANISATION**

## 1.1 OSGEO IN AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

FOSS4G 2009 is backed by the OSGeo Australian/New Zealand local chapter.

The Australia/New Zealand chapter of OSGeo has grown from a strong base of hobbyists, industry, and government sponsors.

Soon to be formally incorporated, the chapter's goals reflect OSGeo's goals of promoting Open Source Geospatial Software, with an emphasis on Outreach within our region. We have already manned booths and presented at a number of Australian conferences, and plan to continue this activity.

OSGeo Representation at Australian conferences includes:

- Linux Australia, Sydney, January 2007. Presentation and booth.
- Spatial Sciences Institute, Hobart, May 2007. Booth.
- GITA, Australia, August 2007. Presentation and booth.
- Victorian Department for Primary Industries Spatial Sciences Workshop, September 2007. Presentation.
- WALIS, March 2008. Presentation(s). Workshop and booth.

Sections of Australian government have started engagement of Open Source Geospatial Software within their Spatial Data infrastructure and there is strong interest to pursue this further. A focus of the Sydney FOSS4G 2009 will be “Engaging the Suits”, in particular, government data custodians.

Landgate, a \$50 million program responsible for deploying Spatial Data Infrastructure in Western Australia is committed to Open Standards and is using Open Source for much of its infrastructure. [TBD Vet this statement with Chris Tweedie and Get a quote from Kylie Armstrong].

Ben Searle, a representative of the Australian National Office for Spatial Data Management, has stated that they are looking for a technology they can give away to partners within the region and that Open Source tools provide that requirement. [TBD Confirm that Ben is happy to give such a quote]. [TBD Byron Cochrane is likely to be able to get a similar quote for New Zealand.

Australian government has positive Open Source policy guidelines at a national level which explain to Government purchasers how to assess Open Source and compare with Proprietary alternatives.

Queensland University of Technology, in conjunction with Queensland government and the Australian Corporate Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRC-SI) have been doing great



research into open licensing of government data. They are suggesting that 80% of government data can be moved to a Creative Commons license, and are researching extensions to the Creative Commons which address the remaining 20% of data.

Australian Open Source involvement is high per capita, with notable contributions from local OSGeo members Cameron Shorter, founder of Mapbuilder and vocal participant in OSGeo Incubation and Discussion lists; Rob Atkinson on the Project Steering Committee of Geoserver; Chris Tweedie, GIS Blogger, and Tim Bowden, colourful presenter at past OSGeo conferences.

## LINUX AUSTRALIA

Linux Australia is ...

Linux Australia has been holding large conferences since ...

## 1.2 PROPOSED LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Australian local OSGeo chapter has a depth of membership, from Geospatial Government Agencies using open source, to Industry Software Developers, to Hackers and Hobbyists – with many members having a foot in a few camps.

### **Cameron Shorter**

Systems Architect at LISAsoft has links into OSGeo, OGC, and Australian Geospatial Industry.

### **Tim Bowden**

Mapforge is a Surveyor and Geospatial Solutions builder. He is a dynamic and staunch Open Source advocate and lobbyist with links into OSGeo.

### **Chris Tweedie**

Working on government projects as part of Landgate, and respected GIS blogger.

### **Ben Searle**

links into Australian geospatial government agencies.

### **Bruce Bannerman**

links into Australian geospatial government agencies.

### **Jeff Waugh**

with experience and extensive contacts from holding large Linux Australia conferences and links into the Gnome community.

### 1.3 PROPOSED DATES

### 1.4 PROPOSED THEME

Our bid will make use of every opportunity to promote Open Source Geospatial education. In this regard, we have the support of the Department of Geomatics, University of Melbourne, and a number of Government departments wishing to promote Open Source into our region.

**“User Driven FOSS4G”** will be the theme for 2009; government sectors, utilities, consumer markets, non-government organizations, open data consumers.

We will follow the successful marketing strategy from FOSS4G2007, with targeted marketing based upon region.

- International open source and geospatial developers and users.
- Regional geospatial users.
- Local broad market.

In Open Source spirit, we plan to develop all but financial details openly. We are doing this because:

- Openness is a core value of Open Source.
- We believe openness is the most effective way to build a groundswell movement.

We conservatively expect to attract 750 attendees. Data collected by the Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau and Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre has shown that in contrast to the perception of distance from the rest of the World, Sydney often attracts more delegates than previous and following conferences – please refer to the section – ‘Sydney Maximises Delegates’ for further information.

Australia is a unique, economical and easily accessible destination via a number of direct, regular flights landing within 15 minutes drive of the central business district of Sydney. Sydney is a safe, politically stable destination with a professional, hassle free conferencing structure in place. This makes Sydney a highly appealing destination for both conferencing and holidays, and for many the opportunity to attend the international conference will provide the additional motivation to enact Australian travel plans.

ESTIMATED DELEGATE ATTENDANCE		
	FOSS4G2007 Attendance	FOSS4G2009 Estimates
Location	Number	Number
Canada	253	50
USA	265	140
Mexico	3	
Europe	139	120
Australia	4	350
China	3	5
Fiji	2	3
Indonesia	3	15
Japan	11	20
Korea	11	20
New Zealand	3	30
Taiwan	1	3
Thailand	1	3
Vietnam	1	5
South America	10	7
Africa	7	7
Near East	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>782</b>

We expect a decrease in attendance from North America and slight decrease from Europe compared to 2007 in Vancouver. However, this will be made up by a large increase in attendance from Australia and New Zealand, and slight increase from the rest of the Asia Pacific region. Please see adjacent table for 2007 – 2009 actual and estimated attendance.

The Spatial Sciences Conference 2007 attracted (to be confirmed) 1000 delegates, primarily from the Government sector. These delegates will also be interested in an Open Source conference. Our theme of focusing on the User will specifically target the Government sector, including threads specifically of interest to the Government attendees.

We will follow the successful marketing strategy from FOSS4G2007, with targeted marketing based upon region.

- International open source and geospatial developers and users.
- Regional geospatial users.
- Local broad market.

*Reference:*

[http://wiki.osgeo.org/index.php/FOSS4G2007\\_Lessons\\_Learned#Breakdown\\_by\\_Country](http://wiki.osgeo.org/index.php/FOSS4G2007_Lessons_Learned#Breakdown_by_Country)

## 1.5 CONFERENCE SUPPORT

Key supporters of FOSS4G 2009 will include:

### LISASOFT

<http://lisasoft.com>

LISAsoft is a Solutions builder with a strong emphasis on geospatial open standards and open source. The Geospatial division of LISAsoft employs approximately 50 developers. The offices of LISAsoft, shown in the adjacent pictures, will house the FOSS4G 2009 code sprint sessions.



## WAUGH PARTNERS

<http://waughpartners.com.au>

Jeff and Pia Waugh in cooperation with Linux Australia successfully staged the 2007 Annual Australian Linux Conference with 900 people in Sydney. Jeff and Pia bring their previous conference experience, and their Linux Australia contacts will provide robust network infrastructure and access.

## GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

Given the nature of their business, the Geoscience communities have had a history of contributing and using open source software starting perhaps from the advent of GRASS. Geoscience Australia (GA) is no different in this regard. FOSS4G is being used in a number of areas both in-house and for external stakeholders within GA.

### *Products*

Some of the most common products used are:

- UMN MapServer and associated libraries e.g. GDAL/OGR, GD, etc for use in data access and OGC web services creation
- Geoserver for use in data access and publishing OGC web services
- Python is used in scientific computing and with ArcGIS
- MBSystem from Columbia University is used for multibeam data processing
- GMT is use for production of maps and manipulating spatial data
- SeiSee for Seismic data processing
- GeoNetwork: "Australian Government agencies consider GeoNetwork as a suitable tool to facilitate implementation of the ANZLIC Metadata Profile. A program for future development is currently being prepared and will be made available soon." Source: <http://www.osdm.gov.au/Metadata/GeoNetwork/Committees/default.aspx>)

### *Applications*

A number of publicly available data sources from GA have been built using open source software. Examples include:



- Map Connect: <http://www.ga.gov.au/mapconnect/wms.jsp>
- Christmas Island Online GIS: <http://www.ga.gov.au/map/christmas/acknowledge.html>
- Gawler Craton Mineral Promotion: Maps and Online GIS [http://www.ga.gov.au/minerals/research/regional/gawler/gaw\\_mapgis.jsp](http://www.ga.gov.au/minerals/research/regional/gawler/gaw_mapgis.jsp)
- Australian Geological Provinces Database: <http://www.ga.gov.au/oracle/provinces>
- Map of Australia's Accredited Renewable Energy Sites: <http://www.ga.gov.au/map/orer/>
- Access to complex 3D models using VRML <http://www.ga.gov.au/map/web3d/>

### *Open Standards*

GA has also been actively involved in the development of open standards such as GeoSciML, with contributions towards international GeoSciML testbed:

[http://www.ga.gov.au/news/archive/2006/nov/#see;](http://www.ga.gov.au/news/archive/2006/nov/#see)

<http://www.ga.gov.au/ausgeonews/ausgeonews200706/inbrief.jsp#inbrief3>

### *Modeling*

GA has also collaboratively been developing open source software for Geoscientific modeling. An example of this is ANUGA: a software implementation of a hydrodynamic model which is specifically designed to model wetting and drying processes. ANUGA is a joint development project between Geoscience Australia (GA) and the Australian National University (ANU).

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/anuga;>

[http://www.ga.gov.au/image\\_cache/GA7981.pdf;](http://www.ga.gov.au/image_cache/GA7981.pdf)

[http://www.ga.gov.au/image\\_cache/GA5060.pdf](http://www.ga.gov.au/image_cache/GA5060.pdf)

### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

**Chris Tweedie**, from **WALIS** in Western Australia, **Shoab Burq** from **Geosciences Australia**, **Ben Searle** from **Office of Spatial Data Management**, **Bruce Bannerman** from the **Victoria Department of Primary Industries** provide contacts and lobbying power from within Australian Government Agencies, with the ability to draw local Geospatial users to the conference.

## LANDGATE AND SHARED LAND INFORMATION PLATFORM (SLIP)

<http://www.landgate.wa.gov.au>

Landgate is the Statutory Authority responsible for Western Australia's land and property information and since 2004, it has been a lead agency in developing a multi-million dollar cross government geospatial data sharing project known as the Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP).

Built around the OGC SDI concept, SLIP utilises OSGEO software extensively on the backend including PostGIS, Geoserver and Mapserver deployed on Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers.

The exhaustive feature list, low start-up cost, vendor interoperability, standards compliance and active development and user communities were all compelling business reasons for choosing OSGEO projects over commercial solutions in particular niche areas.

Currently scheduled for March '08 public release, the current usage statistics speak for themselves with approximately 1000 registered users, and 17 State, Regional & Local Government agencies providing 130 public datasets including 3TB of aerial photography, plus a range of restricted datasets that are available to specific focus areas and as chargeable services.

Many SLIP client demonstrations further utilise OSGEO client solutions such as UDig, OpenLayers, Mapguide, QGIS, GvSIG and is a popular route for SLIP consumers to look into when the consumption of OGC standards is extremely important.

### 1.6 POTENTIAL SPONSORS

- Google Earth
- Geoscience Australia
- CSIRO
- Landgate
- Linux

### 1.7 PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANISER

The Conference will be run and managed by a Professional Conference Organiser (PCO). The PCO will answer to a local OSGeo representative, assigned by OSGeo. The OSGeo representative will seek guidance from members of OSGeo Australia/New Zealand.

## 1.8 PROPOSED BUDGET

## SECTION TWO

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### CONFERENCE FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATION



# CONFERENCE FACILITIES AND ACCOMMODATION

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## 2.1 THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY (UNSW)

Sydney's universities feature excellent conference and special event facilities, some of which can be used all year and with many more available during academic holiday periods. Auditoria and meeting rooms can be booked for conferences with catering and audio-visual hire available on-site. University venues can also provide pre-existing computer laboratories and high speed connections necessary for conference workshops.

The proposed venue for FOSS4G 2009 is the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney. A detailed proposal from UNSW is available on request.

Insert image

Located in the beautiful eastern suburbs of Sydney, Australia, the University of New South Wales offers the best of both worlds - whilst only minutes from stunning beaches, cosmopolitan cafes and quality accommodation. Access is easy and convenient with close proximity to the airport, city centre, public transport and ample parking. Reputation undoubtedly plays a role when selecting a venue. Campus Conferencing, UNSW, has recently been acclaimed as one of *"the state's top meeting spots"*, and for good reason.

Spacious, modern architecture, exquisite catering and extensive sound, lighting and audio-visual systems are just some of the outstanding features of UNSW venues. UNSW offers a number of conference rooms suitable to host FOSS4G 2009.

### SIR JOHN CLANCY AUDITORIUM

The 945-seat Clancy Auditorium, is the eastern suburbs' largest public auditorium and is ideally suited to large conferences, lectures, musical performances and concerts. Surrounded by a wide range of meeting facilities, the Clancy is perfectly located for a conference of any size. The substantial foyer with caterer's bar, cloakroom and food service area offer flexibility with arrangements for your event. Venue hire of the Clancy Auditorium includes access to an extensive array of technical facilities that include:

- 3 video/data projectors with retractable screens
- 4 radio handheld/lapel microphones

- 26-channel audio mixer, processors, amps and Meyer speakers
- Video system including VCRs, mixer and camera tie-lines to stage
- Headset communications for operators and backstage staff
- 24-channel lighting system with 30 spotlights and 8 colour scrollers
- Fibre-optic infrastructure to support video/audio relay of functions to/from other venues on campus

### **JOHN NILAND SCIENTIA BUILDING**

Right in the heart of Kensington Campus, at the top of the "University Mall", the John Niland Scientia Building is the University's most prestigious venue for special events.

Awarded the 2000 Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Buildings, by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, winner of the Sulman Prize for Architecture (NSW), as well as an Outstanding Structures Award from the Swiss-based International Concrete Foundation, the Scientia provides state-of-the-art conferencing and entertainment facilities to internal and external clients.

All venues within the John Niland Scientia Building are wheelchair accessible and a hearing loop is installed in Leighton Hall and the Ritchie Theatre.

### **University of New South Wales: Kensington Campus**

INSERT MAP

## 2.2 SYDNEY CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, DARLING HARBOUR



The award-winning Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre (The Centre) Darling Harbour is conveniently located in the heart of Sydney amongst a spectacular harbour setting. The Centre's multi-million dollar state-of-the-art technical equipment enables the staging of top level conferences and events, covering all aspects of event production, design and management.

*"Collectively I think we have certainly shown the rest of the world how to put on a totally outstanding event, and I know we have set new benchmarks that others will have great difficulty in matching let alone exceeding. I trust that you derive enormous satisfaction in the knowledge that the efforts of numerous Centre staff have contributed substantially to achieving this outstanding result which is sincerely appreciated".*

**Geoffrey Gourlay, Conference Chair, 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Pain, August 2005**

The Centre is renowned for its ability to successfully manage complex and high profile events. The Centre has a proven track record in staging events for many of the worlds leading organisations. Reinforcing this, the Centre was recently voted the **fifth best purpose built centre in Asia – and the best in Australia** – by readers of the international business events publication, CEI Asia Pacific.

The Centre is one of only two convention centres in the world to be awarded the **Green Globe** accreditation. Green Globe is the global benchmarking, certification and improvement system for sustainable travel and tourism, established by the World Travel and Tourism Council. Its rigorous benchmarking program ranks businesses across a range of areas including energy and water consumption, use of paper and chemical products, waste sent to landfill, waste recycling and sustainability policies.

### CAPACITY

The Centre consists of 3 main areas – Bayside Convention Centre, Parkside Convention Centre and the Exhibition Centre. The Centre was initially opened in 1988 and expanded in October 1999. Approximately 800 events take place at The Centre each year including both national and international congresses.



Known as "Australia's Centre of Events", the

venue has the infrastructure to ensure that your event is both memorable and successful. Some of the Centre's key features include:

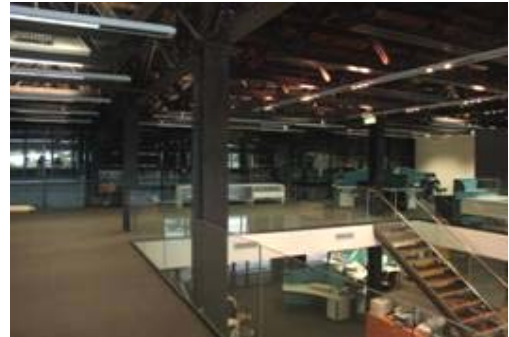
- Two auditoria (3,500 and 1,000 tiered theatre style seats)
- Banquet Hall for 1,600 people banquet style
- Ballroom for 1,000 people banquet style with water and city views
- 30 meeting rooms including a selection of private dining rooms for 150-350 people banquet style
- Over 30,000 square metres of pillarless event and exhibition space incorporating six interconnecting halls, providing space for gala dinners from 1,600-4,000 people
- Scalable internet connection of up to 200M, with data infrastructure throughout the building with the capability to network areas / rooms together.
- Wireless internet is currently available throughout the exhibition halls and convention foyer areas, with more coverage being rolled out in 2008. The networking team at the Centre recently supplied over 350 cabled internet connections and a purpose- built wireless solution to the media centre for the recent APEC meeting held in Sydney.



## 2.3 LISASOFT SYDNEY OFFICE



Based in Pyrmont and overlooking Sydney Harbour, the offices of LISASoft are well equipped to accommodate the FOSS4G 2009 Code Sprint session, [venue specs, connection technical info]





## 2.4 SYDNEY ACCOMMODATION

Sydney offers conveniently located accommodation at highly competitive rates by world standards. Delegates can select from a full range of accommodation, from budget to five star, from apartments to boutique hotels or major international hotel chains.

Sydney has approximately 32,500 hotel and motel rooms, and serviced apartments. The average rate of a hotel room in Sydney is \$142AUD (\$129 USD/€91 Euro) per room.<sup>3</sup>

Sydney is represented by most of the internationally known hotel groups and its 4-5 star properties rival the best in the world.

Sydney's serviced apartments provide a convenient cost-efficient option for delegates travelling with family members or colleagues. Whilst still providing all the housekeeping and room service conveniences of a serviced hotel, these one, two or three bedroom apartments feature home comforts such as self-contained kitchens and laundries, and additional bathrooms.

There is a wide range of accommodation in close proximity to the University of New South Wales. Delegates can choose from serviced apartments to 5-star luxury hotels. All the hotels in nearby Coogee overlook beautiful Coogee Beach and are a short bus or taxi trip from the University, or a 25 minute walk. Venues and Events, responsible for all Event Management at UNSW have an excellent relationship with local hotels, all offering delegates discounted rates with a selection of establishments. On campus, budget accommodation is available in the student residential Colleges, during out of session periods.

The table below list a number of accommodation options close to the University. Appendix 2 also contains a more comprehensive list of accommodation in Sydney's CBD, only 20 minutes from UNSW.

HOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS NEAR UNSW		
PROPERTY	STAR	RATES FROM
Avonmore on the Park Boutique Hotel	4	\$130
Coogee Sands Hotel and Apartments	4	\$145
Coogee Bay Boutique Hotel	4	\$155
Crowne Plaza Coogee	4.5	\$170
Meriton Serviced Apartments (Bondi Junction)	5	\$158
Meriton Serviced Apartments (Waterloo)	5	\$131
Vibe Hotel	4.5	\$130
Medina Executive Coogee	4.5	\$145
Travelodge Wentworth	3.5	\$120
Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour	4	\$210
Barker Lodge Motor Inn	4	\$125
Addison on Anzac	3	\$90

<sup>3</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Tourism Data, March 2007

The below table details accommodation options within 10 minutes walking distance of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

<b>HOTELS AND SERVICED APARTMENTS NEAR THE CENTRE</b>		
<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>STAR</b>	<b>RATES FROM</b>
Hotel Ibis Darling Harbour	3	\$189
Aarons Hotel Sydney	3.5	\$125
Hotel Ibis World Square	3.5	\$145
Oaks Goldsborough Apartments - Darling Harbour	4	\$149
Holiday Inn Darling Harbour	4	\$165
Grand Mercure Apartments Darling Harbour	4.5	\$349
Somerset Darling Harbour	4.5	\$230
Citigate Central Sydney	4.5	\$140
Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour	4.5	\$168
Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour, Sydney	4.5	\$205
Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour	4.5	\$210
Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour	4.5	\$235
Radisson Hotel & Suites Sydney	4.5	\$119
Hilton Sydney	5	\$225
Fraser Suites Sydney	5	\$233
Rydges World Square Sydney	5	\$269
Star City	5	\$225
Sydney Central YHA	N/A	\$35

## 2.5 SPECIAL EVENT VENUES

Sydney offers an increasing number of new, unique and boutique venues with growing meetings infrastructure for conferences and events. The range of venues available in Sydney will satisfy the needs of event planners world-wide. For conference dinners or gala functions, Sydney offers an exciting and unique range of specialty venues:

- The Sydney Opera House – an Australian icon – can host formal and informal functions in a breathtaking location.
- Dine on delicious seafood while cruising on the Harbour.
- Enjoy an evening with breathtaking panoramic views of the harbour and the Sydney skyline from a Sydney Tower revolving restaurant.
- Arrive in style at Sydney’s historic Town Hall.
- Treat delegates to a unique experience by holding a themed gala event at Sydney



Sydney Harbour Cruise



360 Bar and Dining – Sydney Tower



Sydney Town Hall



Luna Park, Sydney



## SECTION THREE

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### SYDNEY: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CITY

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CITY – DESTINATION SYDNEY

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## 3.1 INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Whilst Australia provides an environment that facilitates exceptional business events, we understand that it is the scientific content and outcomes of the conference that will move your association forward.

We believe Association's are the 'world's thinkers' and so Australia offers you a genuine partnership built on understanding your objectives, who you are and what you are trying to achieve. Not only will Australia provide a logistically successful congress in a spectacular and unique environment, but we will work with you to further the objectives of your association so as to provide a greater contribution to the communities of the world.

Australia has recently been named as the first choice among 25 countries for investment, immigration, tourism and people.<sup>4</sup> Australia is a politically, socially and economically stable country and is recognised as having the lowest risk of political instability in the Asia Pacific and the fourth lowest risk in the world.<sup>5</sup> A factor that is important to bear in mind when planning a conference *two or more years in advance!*

Built around the attractions of a working harbour, Sydney is the thriving capital of New South Wales (Australia's most populated state).



Sydney has received many accolades for its expertise and professionalism in conference delivery. Reinforcing the city's growing reputation as a leading meeting and conference destination, Sydney was recently named the **"World's Best City"** for a record 12th time.<sup>6</sup> Sydney has also been given titles including **"World's Favourite Overseas City"**<sup>7</sup> and **"World's Friendliest City"**.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Anholt Brands Index, 2007

<sup>5</sup> World Competitive Yearbook Survey, 2007

<sup>6</sup> US Edition of Condé Nast Traveller Magazine, Oct 2007

<sup>7</sup> UK Edition of Conde Nast Traveller, Sept 2007

<sup>8</sup> Voted by UK readers of The Sunday Times, 2003

The Sydney Harbour Bridge was voted “Favourite Icon”, being found to be more popular than the Egyptian pyramids and the Grand Canyon.<sup>9</sup>

Sydney’s world famous Opera House was recently listed as a World Heritage site. The decision was made at a meeting of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation’s World Heritage Committee. The committee described the Opera House as being of unparalleled design and construction.<sup>11</sup>



Sydney’s international appeal has been strongly reinforced by *APEC 2007*, *the Rugby World Cup 2003* the *Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games*. The global media coverage of these events has generated enormous ‘visibility’ for Sydney.

As a result of this international recognition, Sydney maximises delegate attendance, as many will choose to combine their visit with a holiday.

Sydney will have a direct contribution to a successful **FOSS4G Conference in 2009** through:

- Exceptional international destination appeal
- Ease of international access
- World class venues
- Representation by internationally recognised hotel groups and youth hostels
- Outstanding transport infrastructure
- International cost competitiveness
- Hub city for flights to other Australian destinations for pre & post touring
- Year-round temperate climate
- Excellence and professionalism in convention services and organization
- 

“Delegates came in huge numbers to our meeting and loved what Sydney had to offer ... Sydney is the most exciting city in the world and Australia is THE country to visit. I am sure in your deliberations if you pick Sydney as your next Conference venue your members will be well pleased.”

Prof Richard Widmer  
International Association of Paediatric Dentistry 2005 Congress Chair

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<sup>9</sup> Trailfinders, 2005

<sup>11</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, June 2007

## 3.2 EXPERIENCE AND ACCOLADES

Sydney's experience in planning and managing international conferences and its comprehensive meetings infrastructure, has earned it the status of a leading conference destination.

*"The President of the International Council of Ophthalmology ... stated publicly that Sydney 2002 was the best ever International Congress of Ophthalmology"*

Dr Frank Martin  
Secretary General  
International Congress of Ophthalmology 2002

### **Sydney - Best City in the World**

(Conde Nast Traveller Magazine, Readers Choice Awards, Oct 2007)

This ranking is based on a survey of 400,000 readers. Cities are evaluated on ambience, friendliness, culture/sights, restaurants, lodging and shopping. Sydney rated highest in the categories of 'Ambience' and 'Friendliness', and has held this title nine times in the past.

### **Sydney - Favourite Overseas City**

(Guardian and Observer Travel Awards, UK, Sept 2007)

This ranking is based on a survey of 22,000 readers

### **Sydney - ranked 23rd in the world for the number of international conventions held in the city**

(International Congress and Convention Association, June 2007)

### **Sydney - ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the Asia Pacific for the number of international conventions held in the city**

(International Congress and Convention Association, June 2007)

### **The Opera House - listed as a World Heritage site**

**"great artistic monument and an icon"**

(As voted by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's  
World Heritage Committee, 2007)

### **The Sydney Harbour Bridge - voted "Favourite Icon"**

(Trailfinders, 2005)

The Harbour Bridge was found to be more popular than the Egyptian pyramids and the Grand Canyon. As reported by the UK's largest travel agency group, Trailfinders.

### **The Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau (SCVB) - voted the best Convention Bureau**

**2004, 2005, 2006**

(National awards of Meetings and Events Australia)

### 3.3 SYDNEY WILL MAXIMISE DELEGATE NUMBERS

Delegate numbers is sometimes used as one of several factors to measure the success of a conference. The ability of a conference to attract delegates not only lies in the breadth of the topics and profile of the speakers but also on the destination appeal. Maximising delegate numbers will in turn, impact on the success of the conference, both financially and socially.

Research shows that Australia is the number one preferred destination of potential travellers from China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, the United States and England.<sup>10</sup> This destination appeal, along with Sydney's world renowned meetings infrastructure and professional industry expertise means that OSGeo can be confident that FOSS4G when held in Sydney will attract a greater number of participants.

Some examples where Sydney has attracted more delegates than the previous and/or subsequent world meetings include.<sup>11</sup>

Congress Name	Number of Delegates
<b>World Congress of Sport Psychology</b> <b>2005 - Sydney, Australia</b> 2001 – Skiatos, Greece 1997 – Netanya, Israel	733 550 450
<b>International Myeloma Workshop</b> <b>2005 - Sydney, Australia</b> 2003 – Salamanca, Spain 2001 – Banff, Canada 1999 – Stockholm, Sweden	1 142 1 000 700 600
<b>Conference of the World Jurist Association</b> <b>2003 - Sydney, Australia</b> 2001 – Dublin, Ireland 1999 – Vienna, Austria	1 500 600 700
<b>Congress &amp; International Assembly of the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design</b> 2001 – Seoul, Korea <b>1999 – Sydney, Australia</b> 1997 – Toronto, Canada	1 000 4 000 1 000

<sup>10</sup> Tourism Australia, Market Insights Tourism Facts, 2004

<sup>11</sup> International Congress and Convention Association

*“The President of the International Council of Ophthalmology... stated publicly that Sydney 2002 was the best ever International Congress of Ophthalmology”*

Dr Frank Martin  
Secretary General  
International Congress of Ophthalmology 2002

*“By holding the event in Sydney, we boosted our delegate numbers over the previous congress by about 10-15 percent.”*

Dr Bill Carroll  
Committee President  
World Congress of Neurology 2005

*“While a large proportion of occupational therapists are based in the northern hemisphere, it is a testament to Sydney as an international drawcard that so many were prepared to travel around the globe to attend the World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress. There is no doubt that Sydney numbers were significantly higher than expected.”*

Dr David Duncan  
Event’s Convenor  
CEO of Occupational Therapy Australia.

*“...I am delighted to report that those who said we could not have a successful conference here (Sydney, Australia) were quite simply wrong... Over 3,100 abstracts were submitted, a more than 50% increase over the last IAS conference in Rio de Janeiro. ”*

Pedro Cahn  
President  
International AIDS Society and 4<sup>th</sup> IAS Conference Co-Chair 2007

The table below includes examples where Sydney has **exceeded** delegate number expectations.

Congress Name	Estimated Delegates	Actual Delegates
International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, 2007	3 000	6 700
Congress of the International Rhinologic Society, 2005	500	1 300
IEEE Lasors and Electro-Optics Society Annual Meeting, 2005	550	950
7 <sup>th</sup> World Biomaterials Congress 2004	1 250	1 724
International Conference of the Institute of Internal Auditors 2004	1 000	1 600
XXIXth International Congress of Ophthalmology 2002	3 500	4 445

### 3.4 ASIA PACIFIC CITY

Sydney is the second largest financial centre in the Asia Pacific and is host to over 470 regional headquarters of global companies.<sup>12</sup>

Sydney and NSW are strategically positioned with excellent access to Asia Pacific countries. Sydney is the first major financial centre to open for trading each day, spanning the close of the US business day and the opening of the European market.<sup>13</sup>

Sydney and Australia are proven to attract visitors and delegates from the Asia Pacific Region. More than half the international visitors to Sydney originate from Asia. With such a high proportion of visitors from Asia, it is not surprising that four of the top five languages spoken in Sydney are Asian with almost one-in-six (16.4%) of the residential population proficient in them.<sup>14</sup>

Recent visitor arrivals note that in the year ended June 2007, more than 2.6 million people visited Sydney out of which 40% were from Asian countries.<sup>15</sup> Compared to the previous year, these figures represent an increase of visitors from Asian countries such as Singapore, India, Korea, China, Malaysia, as well as from other countries including Canada, United Kingdom, France and Italy.

In 1999 Approved Destination Status (ADS) was extended to Australia by the Government of China. Australia was the first Western destination to be granted ADS, which in turn allowed Australia to be promoted in China as a leisure holiday destination.

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<sup>12</sup> NSW Department of State and Regional Development, 2007

<sup>13</sup> NSW Department of State and Regional Development, 2004

<sup>14</sup> City of Sydney Media Centre, 2006

<sup>15</sup> International Visitor Survey, YE June 2007, Tourism Research Australia.

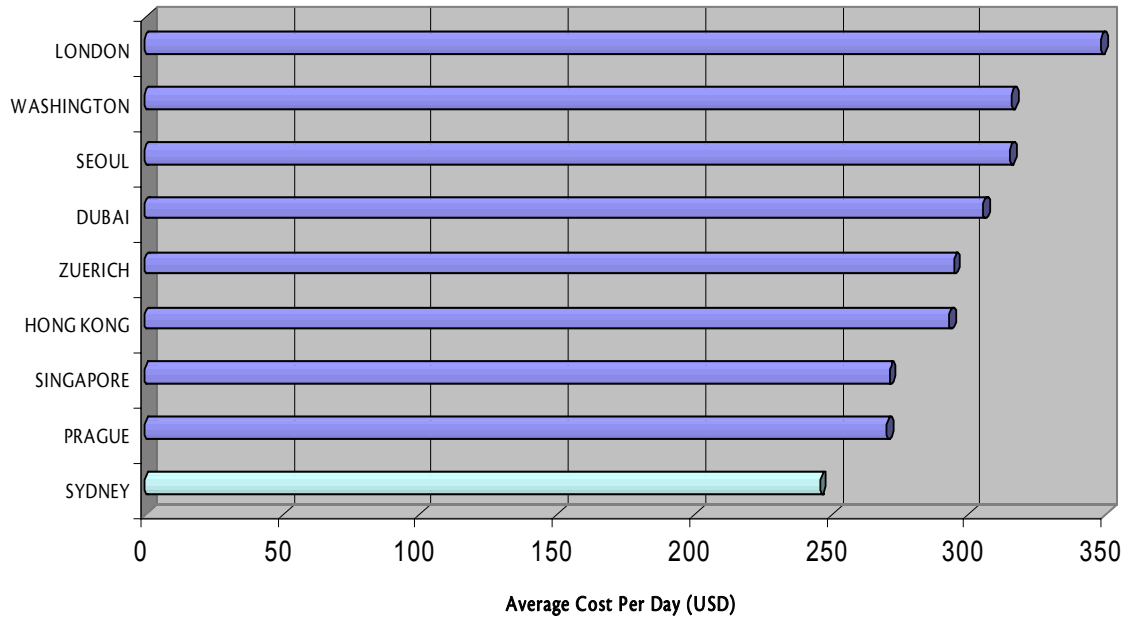
### 3.5 AFFORDABILITY

Sydney is an affordable city, and ranks favourably in daily travel cost comparisons with other international conference destinations.

According to a study conducted by *Runzheimer International (2007)* of the costs of lodging and meals in the world's cities, visitors to Sydney pay significantly less than they would for an average stay in London, Washington or Singapore.

The "Average Value (USD)" is the total cost of three business class meals plus single rack lodging per day in each city.

Runzheimers Guide to Daily Travel Costs





### 3.6 SYDNEY CONFERENCE CARD

A first for Australia, the Sydney Conference Card is a city-wide rewards program tailored directly to conference delegates.

The Sydney Conference Card will add extra value to the **FOSS4G** delegate experience in Sydney, providing a 10 per cent saving on their spend and rewarding them for their purchases in the city. The Sydney Conference Card allows meeting managers, with minimal effort, the opportunity to



provide delegates with a product that will maximise their leisure time and therefore enhance the overall experience of the conference in Sydney.

The SCVB has created the Sydney Conference Card to provide **FOSS4G** delegates and their travel partners, with an exclusive product that they can use outside conference hours to orientate themselves with the city and to access attractive

discounts and rewards at a diverse range of businesses.

The Sydney Conference Card will entitle **FOSS4G 2009** delegates to a minimum 10 percent discount at participating restaurants, attractions, retailers and tour operators. Delegates will also earn instant reward points, which can then be redeemed on future purchases.

Utilising the latest technology, the Sydney Conference Card is a credit-card sized 'smart card'. Delegates simply swipe their card at participating merchants to access the discount and earn their reward points.

The SCVB is proud to offer **OSGeo** the Sydney Conference Card as a **stand-alone product**, or as a combined high-quality **conference name-badge**.

Both options will be provided to **OSGeo** at a discounted per-card rate. In particular, the combined Sydney Conference Card and name-badge will allow you to save on the production cost of this conference item and offer your delegates a high-quality name-badge that includes discounts and rewards at over 60 restaurants, shops, attractions and more.

Each card/name-badge is accompanied by a booklet (including map) and website, outlining the available offers. Collateral is also provided to support pre-event and on-site marketing activities.

We are very pleased to provide you with a low-cost, high-impact product that will ensure delegates make the most of the diverse leisure options that Sydney has to offer.

### 3.7 CLIMATE

Sydney experiences year round temperate climate. November in Sydney is Spring, with temperatures ranging between 15.5°C (59.9°F) to 23.6 °C (74.5°F). This milder summer weather allows delegates to comfortably commute between venue and accommodation, and also to enjoy Sydney's outdoor lifestyle, with 6 out of 10 days being rain free.

### 3.8 LIFESTYLE

#### CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Sydney is a highly multicultural society, with more than 160 ethnic communities living harmoniously in the city.<sup>16</sup> Approximately one third of Sydney's residents were born overseas – the seventh highest percentage of any city in the world.<sup>17</sup> This multicultural quality influences the city's restaurants, entertainment and lifestyle.

One in five Australians speaks a language in addition to the country's official language, English.<sup>18</sup> Australian society is very accepting of other cultures. This attitude is reinforced by the Australian Government's extensive programs that promote public acceptance of diversity and multiculturalism. The 82 ethnic newspapers and Australia's Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) radio and television network write and broadcast in many different languages. Sydney also offers places of worship for a diverse range of religions.

#### DINING IN SYDNEY

With a multitude of cultural influences, eating out is one of Sydney's great delights. Sydney's good food reputation is spreading internationally with the city being named the "best place on earth to eat".<sup>19</sup>

Sydney's restaurant scene reflects its enormously rich and diverse range of cultures and cuisines, from Indian and Asian to Middle Eastern and Mediterranean and not forgetting Australia's own unique seafood dishes. Some of Sydney's fabulous dining areas include The Rocks, for fine dining restaurants in historic buildings and Darling Harbour for seafood with Harbour views. Just beyond the Central Business District, Double Bay and Kings Cross offer a multitude of cafes, with fashionable nearby Paddington showcasing young chefs in some of the best pub restaurants. The famous Bondi Beach and Manly Beach excel in relaxed seaside dining, while the city-fringe areas of Glebe, Newtown, Leichhardt



<sup>16</sup> Department of Immigration, 2005

<sup>17</sup> State Chamber of Commerce, 2005

<sup>18</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2003 Census

<sup>19</sup> Los Angeles Times, 2005

and Balmain present an extensive range of inexpensive restaurants, providing cuisines from many countries.

## FRIENDLINESS

Sydneysiders are known for a lifestyle that reflects the perfect balance of work and leisure. The local residents value the natural attractions and weather and, as a result, much of their leisure time is spent outdoors. 'Sydneysiders' even have access to more than 70 beaches spread along the city's coastline. Visitors, too, can enjoy this relaxed, healthy and inexpensive lifestyle.

### 3.9 DELEGATE SAFETY

Australia is a politically, socially and economically stable country and is ranked as one of the countries with the lowest risk of political instability in the world.<sup>20</sup> Delegates can rest assured that when they come to Sydney, they are visiting both a safe tourist destination<sup>21</sup> and a city considered very safe by its residents.<sup>22</sup>

This high level of safety that Sydney enjoys means that delegates can explore the city in comfort and with minimal concern. Sydney understands that the safety and security of participants is a vital component to the success of an international conference.



Sydney is a safe and vibrant place to live, work, visit and do business. In a recent international "Quality of Life Survey", **Sydney was ranked as the safest Australian city**, and equal eighth with Auckland in New Zealand.<sup>23</sup>

The City of Sydney is committed to ensuring that the city is a safe environment for all individuals. This commitment is demonstrated by the Safe City Strategy, a partnership between Sydney police and other city stakeholders which aims to address crime, anti-social behaviour and personal safety issues in Sydney.<sup>24</sup> By all accounts, the level of crime against tourists in Sydney is very low in comparison to many other major cities.<sup>25</sup>

Safety initiatives that have been developed include:

- More visible and frequent police patrols
- A network of street safety cameras to monitor crime 24 hours a day
- Planning controls to achieve safe urban design in the city

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<sup>20</sup> World Competitive Yearbook Survey 2004

<sup>21</sup> NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research survey 1999

<sup>22</sup> NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics, 2001 - from a sample of 1800 Sydney workers

<sup>23</sup> Mercer Human Resource Consulting, 2007

<sup>24</sup> City Of Sydney, 2005

<sup>25</sup> Safe City Strategy, 2001

- Improved street lighting in excess of the Australian standard to deter crime and increase natural surveillance

Australia's expertise in providing security at major international events was proven again recently by the high-level coordination and planning provided to ensure a safe secure APEC year. APEC Australia 2007, which culminated in Sydney with the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, featured the largest and most important series of meetings ever held in Australia.<sup>26</sup>

### 3.10 SYDNEY – GREEN CITY

With nearly 1 billion tourists crisscrossing the globe every year, it's more important than ever for delegates to minimize their individual impact on the earth's natural and cultural treasures. The potential negative effects of tourism are both local and global; rising numbers of visitors threaten the fragile ecosystems and carbon dioxide emissions from planes are a growing contributor to global warming.

AUSTRALIA became the first country in which all major airlines offer carbon offsets, with Qantas and Jetstar recently announcing a voluntary emission reduction scheme . "There's no denying that the air transport industry is the fastest growing of all the transport industries and it's very important to make a real attempt to minimise our footprint," the chief executive of Qantas, Geoff Dixon, said at the launch.<sup>27</sup>

Venues such as the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Entertainment Centre<sup>28</sup>, Sydney Olympic Park<sup>29</sup> along with Sydney hotels are joining the effort to reduce pollution and green house gas emissions by installing water and power saving devices and implementing less wasteful cleaning methods.

Sydney itself is a 'green city', housing many large parks and gardens within the CBD providing an



oasis in the city and the perfect place to relax on a sunny day.

In 2007, the City of Sydney joined the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group<sup>30</sup>, with an aim to encourage sustainable environmental developments and initiatives to decrease the impact of large cities on the environment by reducing greenhouse gas

<sup>26</sup> [www.apec2007.org](http://www.apec2007.org)

<sup>27</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, Sept 2007

<sup>28</sup> Sydney Entertainment Centre is recognized by the Green Globe organization: <http://www.greenglobe.org>

<sup>29</sup> Sydney Olympic Park is a member of Eco Tourism Australia: <http://www.ecotourism.org.au>

<sup>30</sup> City of Sydney, 2007

emissions.

The City of Sydney is currently providing funding to programs to increase energy, transportation and water efficiency and green power initiatives. The City is also encouraging private businesses to become active partners in these initiatives by introducing a “Green Star” system and for awarding environmentally friendly commercial buildings, and introducing recognition of businesses participating in energy efficient programs with the 3CBDs program.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> City of Sydney 2007 – <http://www.3CBDs.com.au>

# SECTION FOUR

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## TRAVEL AND ACCESS

# TRAVEL AND ACCESS

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## 4.1 INTERNATIONAL ACCESS

Sydney is easily accessible to all delegates with 39 passenger airlines operating scheduled services to Sydney International Airport, totalling over 500 flights arriving per week. Delegates from Asia, Europe, Africa, North America and South America can fly direct or one-stop flights into Sydney. Flying from Los Angeles takes half as much time to reach Sydney as Capetown and approximately the same time as it takes to fly to Hong Kong or Rome.

Major international airlines operate direct or one stop services from major hub cities including Bangkok, Singapore, London, Los Angeles, New York, Johannesburg and Santiago. Please refer to the following pages for a list of all cities served by non-stop and direct (includes re-fuelling stop with no change of flight) flights into Sydney International Airport.



INTERNATIONAL NON-STOP FLIGHTS	
CITY	TOTAL WKLY ARRIVALS
ABU DHABI	3
APIA	3
AUCKLAND	67
BALI	6
BANGKOK	14
BEIJING	3
BRUNEI	3
CHRISTCHURCH	31
DUBAI	7
DUNEDIN	2
FRANKFURT	0
GUANGZHOU	4
HAMILTON	3
HO CHI MINH CITY	3
HONG KONG	35
HONOLULU	9
INCHON	14
JAKARTA	4
JOHANNESBURG	5
KUALA LUMPUR	14
LOS ANGELES	11
MAURITIUS	1
MUMBAI	3
NADI	14
NORFOLK ISLAND	4
NOUMEA	7
PALMERSTON NORTH	2
PHUKET	3
PORT VILA	6
QUEENSTOWN	1
SHANGHAI	7
SINGAPORE	21
SUVA	2
TAIPEI	3
TOKYO	18
TONGATAPU	2
WELLINGTON	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>

INTERNATIONAL DIRECT FLIGHTS		
CITY	VIA	TOTAL WKLY ARRIVALS
BAHRAIN	SINGAPORE	7
BANGKOK	MELBOURNE	1
BEIJING	MELBOURNE	3
BEIJING	SHANGHAI	4
BUENOS AIRES	AUCKLAND	3
CHICAGO	SAN FRANCISCO	7
COOK ISLANDS	CHRISTCHURCH	1
DUBAI	BANGKOK	7
FRANKFURT	SINGAPORE	7
GUANGZHOU	MELBOURNE	3
HANOI	HO CHI MINH CITY	4
LONDON	BANGKOK	14
LONDON	HONG KONG	7
LONDON	SINGAPORE	14
LOS ANGELES	BRISBANE	1
MANILA	BRISBANE	4
MANILA	MELBOURNE	3
NEW YORK	LOS ANGELES	14
NEW YORK	YORK PAPEETE	2
OSAKA	BRISBANE	7
PORT MORESBY	BRISBANE	2
SANTIAGO	AUCKLAND	6
SHANGHAI	MELBOURNE	4
SINGAPORE	ADLAIDE	3
TOKYO	CAIRNS	7
VANCOUVER	HONOLULU	7
VANCOUVER	SAN FRANCISCO	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>147</b>

*\*Source: Sydney International Airport 2007*



## 4.2 SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



The Airport typically processes around 77,000 domestic and international passengers per day, and is well equipped to manage fluctuations with large numbers of delegate arrivals.<sup>34</sup>

The airport's high operational quality reinforces the City's capacity to host large international events, as previously referred to in the document, and with many more international events due to take place in the City, such as ***World Youth Day*** in 2008.

Sydney's city centre is only 8 kilometres/5 miles from the airport, making it one of the closest airports to the city compared to other international and Australian cities (see below table). This means that travel time for delegates is kept to a minimum, as is the cost of transferring delegates from the airport to hotels.

The cost of a taxi fare is approximately 25 AUD (\$22USD/€16 Euro). Delegates can also take a direct rail link from the airport to the city centre in 13 minutes. Trains depart every ten

Sydney Airport has been named the best airport in the Australia/Pacific region by Skytrax Passenger Survey<sup>32</sup> and maintained its status as one of the world's best airports by being ranked 7th in the latest survey of international airports.<sup>33</sup>

Airport	Distance to CBD
Sydney	8km
London	10km
Vancouver	15km
Durban	16km
Singapore	20km
New York	20km
Bangkok	24km
Beijing	25km
Rome	26km
Toronto	27km
Los Angeles	27km
Chicago	27km
Hong Kong	34km
Seoul	40km
Washington	42km
Buenos Aires	51km
Kuala Lumpur	55km
Tokyo	66km
<i>Source: Official Airline Guide, 2007</i>	

<sup>12</sup> Sydney Airport Corporate Information, 2007

<sup>33</sup> Conde Nast Traveller Magazine, Sept 2007 [World's largest independent airport passenger survey]

<sup>34</sup> Sydney Airport Corporation Ltd – Corporate Information, 2007

minutes, or 15 minutes off-peak and cost approximately 13 AUD (10 USD/€8 EURO)

### 4.3 TRAVEL AUTHORITIES AND VISAS

Australia's Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) system is the world's most advanced and streamlined travel authorisation system. The ETA is an electronically-stored authority for travel to Australia for a short-term tourist or business entry. It replaces the visa label or stamp in a passport and removes the need for application forms. ETAs are issued within seconds of being requested either via the Internet or through computer links between the Australian Immigration Department, travel agents, airlines and specialist service providers around the world. Over 30 countries around the world have access to the free ETA system.

#### *ETA Countries*

Europe		Asia
Andorra	Luxembourg	Brunei
Austria	Malta	Hong Kong SAR
Belgium	Monaco	Japan
Denmark	The Netherlands	Malaysia
Finland	Norway	Singapore
France	Portugal	South Korea
Germany	San Marino	Taiwan*
Greece	Spain	
Iceland	Sweden	
Ireland	Switzerland	
Italy	UK **	
Liechtenstein	Vatican City	
		North America
		Canada
		USA

\* Holders of Taiwan passports can only be processed for an ETA if resident in and applying in Taiwan.

\*\* Holders of UK passports which indicate their nationality to be British National (Overseas) can only be processed for an ETA if resident in and applying in Hong Kong.

For conference delegates from non-ETA countries, the appropriate visa is a Business (Short Stay) visa, even if some tourism activities are planned for part of the stay in Australia. It is called a 456 visa if it is issued as a label into a passport.

Business/Conference Visitors	Cost
<b>Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) 977</b> <i>Single entry up to 3 months</i>	\$AUD 20/\$US 18
<b>Business (Short Stay) 456 Visa</b> <i>Up to 3 months</i> <i>Non-ETA countries</i>	\$AU 75/\$US 67

Australia's Department of Immigration has a service available to assist people organising meetings with obtaining visa information and assisting with visa problems. This service is free and is called the International Event Coordinator Network.<sup>35</sup> Please refer to the Conference Support section of this document for further information.

<sup>35</sup> Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

## 4.4 SYDNEY TRANSPORT

Sydney has an extensive, easy to use, public transport system, which includes harbour ferries, jet-powered catamarans, a monorail and city and suburban rail and bus systems. It is for this reason that over 70% of people accessing the city use public transport.<sup>36</sup> Private services are also available and include chauffeured limousines and rental cars, taxis and water taxis. There is a wide range of easy-to-use ticket options which make travelling around the city cost effective and efficient.

Metro Monorail: The monorail operates above the city's streets, providing delegates with a scenic loop and convenient transfer to/from Darling Harbour and the Central Business District. Eight stations are located along the 15-minute circuit, frequenting each station every 3-5 minutes. A **Convention Pass**, at a discounted rate, is available for conference delegates.



Metro Light Rail: The light rail system provides a 15 minute circuit around the city from Central Railway Station to Chinatown, Darling Harbour and Pyrmont. Regular services operate from ten stations every 8-11 minutes.

Trains: Sydney's railway network covers the entire metropolitan district. The New South Wales rail network is one of the world's most complex. The 10 kilometre (6.25 mile) underground *Southern Railway* links the airport to the city in 13 minutes.

Buses: Sydney has an extensive bus network covering areas not serviced by trains. It is efficient, cost effective and easy to follow.

Ferries: Sydney's ferries can transfer delegates from Circular Quay or harbour-side locations to Darling Harbour in under 15 minutes.



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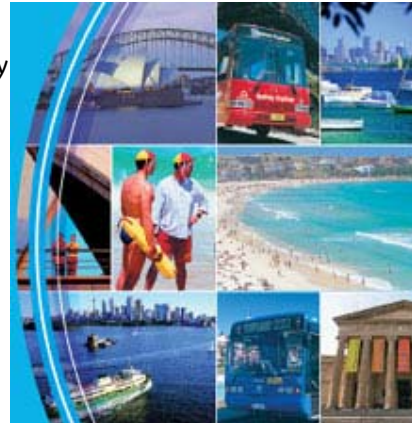
<sup>36</sup> State Chamber of Commerce, 2005

## 4.5 SYDNEY TRANSPORT PASS

Delegates can make the most of their visit to Sydney with a value-packed, all inclusive sightseeing package that combines the best of Sydney's harbour, city, bay and beach highlights. Sydney Pass 3, 5 and 7 day tickets include unlimited travel on the Sydney and Bondi Explorer buses, AirportLink train transfers, Harboursights cruises and much more.

The Sydney Pass includes:

- Unlimited hop-on, hop-off travel on the Sydney Explorer and the Bondi Explorer
- Three Harboursights Cruises
- Return transfers on AirportLink trains
- All regular Sydney Buses services
- All regular Sydney Ferries services
- All regular CityRail trains within the Red travel zone
- Discounts on Sydney Attractions



The cost of a Sydney Pass ranges between a 3 day adult pass at \$100 AUD/\$87 USD to a 7 day adult pass at \$150 AUD/\$ 130 USD. Children under 4 travel free. A child is anyone from the age of 4 to 15 years old. A family is 2 adults and all children from the same immediate family

A typical itinerary using a 3 day SydneyPass can save delegates up to 50% of the cost of the separate ticket purchases.

TOUR	ADULT	CHILD	FAMILY
<b>SydneyPass</b>			
<b>3 day pass</b> - any three days over an eight calendar day period	AUD 100 USD 87	AUD 50 USD 44	AUD 250 USD 218
<b>5 day pass</b> - any five days over an eight calendar day period	AUD 130 USD 113	AUD 65 USD 48	AUD 325 USD 283
<b>7 day pass</b> - any seven days over an eight calendar day period	AUD 150 USD 130	AUD 75 USD 65	AUD 375 USD 326

## SECTION FIVE

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### TOURING SYDNEY AND AUSTRALIA

## 5.1 TOURING OPTIONS AROUND SYDNEY

**FOSS4G 2009**, when held in Sydney, will have access to the city's world class and award winning tourist attractions and local experiences to create an exciting and memorable leisure program. The success of an event's social and partners programs will contribute greatly to the overall success of the conferences. Please refer to Appendix 4 for travel and visitor information.

Sydney is home to many of the top tourist attractions and activities in Australia, including the Sydney Opera House; Darling Harbour; the Historic Rocks area; The Sydney Harbour Bridge; and our famous beaches.

### Sydney Activities at a Glance

These activities can be included in partners programs or as conference tour options:

1. Sail Sydney Harbour
2. Visit the famous Sydney Opera House
3. Climb Sydney Harbour Bridge
4. Visit Sydney's Taronga Zoo
5. Visit the Sydney Olympic site
6. Hit the big time at Star City – Sydney's Casino
7. Shop in the historic Rocks precinct
8. Visit Sydney Tower and experience Skywalk
9. Experience Sydney's Shopping
10. Enjoy Sydney's dining culture
11. Splash out at Sydney's famous Bondi Beach
12. Relax in the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens
13. Take a day trip to the Blue Mountains or The Hunter Valley
14. Go for a bicycle ride or rollerblade in Centennial Park
15. Tee off at one of Sydney's championship golf courses





Following are a selection of day touring options for Conference delegates and their partners.

### **VISIT SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE**

Perform on stage with musicians from the symphony orchestra in the main concert hall or take a backstage tour of the Sydney Opera House for a special behind-the-scenes look at intricate sets and lavish costumes for some of the season's greatest shows. Delegates even get the opportunity to stand, baton in hand, to conduct the orchestra in a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



### **CLIMB SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE**



Sydney Harbour Bridge is one of Australia's most well known and photographed landmarks. It is the world's largest steel arch bridge with the top of the bridge standing 134 metres above the harbour. Delegates can climb this world famous icon. A professional team will take participants on an exhilarating climb all the way to the top! Climbs leave every 15 minutes, and for an extra thrill, take the Sunset climb for a truly spectacular way to end the day.

### **SYDNEY CITY HIGHLIGHTS TOUR**

Explore the vibrancy and style of cosmopolitan Sydney, one of the world's most beautiful harbour cities. Discover colonial buildings and cobbled lanes in The Rocks. Enjoy views of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House from Mrs Macquarie's Chair, a waterfront seat carved into the rock for the wife of visionary colonial Governor, Lachlan Macquarie. Travel through Sydney's fashionable eastern suburbs, renowned for their elegant homes and harbour vistas, on the way to world-famous Bondi Beach – a haven for surfers and sun lovers.



### **SYDNEY HARBOUR COFFEE CRUISE**

Sail by Sydney's most famous landmarks including the Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge and Fort Denison. The cruise also includes the upper reaches of



Middle Harbour with natural bushland, harbour beaches and marinas.

### AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE DISCOVERY



Walk through a spacious, open koala enclosure and discover why the cuddly koala is one of the most unique and loved native Australian animals. Be photographed with a koala and hand feed the free-roaming kangaroos. Meet other native animals including emus, wallabies, wombats and echidnas, at one of Sydney's premier wildlife parks.

### EXPLORE SYDNEY'S BEACHES – BRONTE TO BONDI WALK

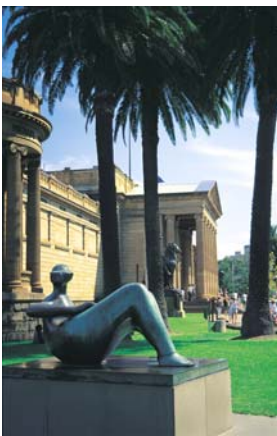
No trip to Sydney is complete without a visit to the famous Bondi beach. Accompanied by a local guide, enjoy an easy coastal walk along the Bondi to Bronte path, taking in the spectacular views of beaches, parks and aboriginal carvings. Visit a surf lifesaving museum and hear tales of heroic rescues by Bondi's own Lifesavers. Enjoy lunch in a local café and discover why Bondi was once considered the "Playground of the Pacific".

### EXPLORE MANLY BEACH

Experience the Australian beach lifestyle at Manly – Australia's first seaside resort. Surrounded by National Park, the ocean and Sydney Harbour, Manly is the perfect place to relax and unwind. Take a walk down the famous pedestrian walkway known as 'The Corso' and marvel at the huge Norfolk Pines lining the beach. Enjoy a casual lunch before catching the scenic ferry trip back to Circular Quay and the city.



### ABORIGINAL INSIGHTS - BOTANIC GARDENS & ART GALLERY



Experience the world's oldest living culture on a guided walking tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens, where the original inhabitants of Sydney gathered plants, seeds and roots for food and medicine. Discover how Aborigines produced a honey drink from the Banksia, roasted seeds from the Moreton Bay Chestnut and made fishing line from the bark of the Bolwarra tree. Learn about the Dreamtime in this excellent

permanent collection celebrating the diversity of indigenous arts in Australia.

### **SYDNEY SEAFOOD SCHOOL**



Sydney Seafood School is undoubtedly the finest seafood cooking facility in Australia. This fun, hands-on class features all aspects of seafood cookery and handling, plus the chance to make a delicious seafood dish. The School is located at Sydney Fish Market, an authentic fisherman's market on Blackwattle Bay, providing a vibrant harbour side experience. Enjoy canapés and drinks on arrival, followed by an expert seafood cookery

demonstration from one of Sydney's top chefs.

### **SAILING REGATTA ON SYDNEY HARBOUR**

Experience the thrill of yacht racing on world famous Sydney Harbour. After a safety briefing and instruction with your experienced skipper, it's time to practice manoeuvres before the race begins! This exciting afternoon of sailing is perfect for complete beginners, while still challenging for experienced sailors.



### **THE ROCKS PUB TOUR**

A unique way of discovering Sydney's history, take a tour through the historic cobblestone lanes to some of Sydney's favourite watering holes.



## 5.2 NSW AND AUSTRALIA

With the strong appeal that Sydney offers as a host city and Australia as the host country, the destination contributes greatly to maximising delegate numbers and partners at international congresses.

The following pages provide some examples of *must-see locations just beyond Sydney and throughout the rest of Australia.*

Delegates may also choose to visit nearby New Zealand, just a short two hour flight east of Sydney.





## 5.2.1 TOURING OPTIONS BEYOND SYDNEY – EXPLORE NSW

The following are a selection of pre and post touring options for Conference delegates and their partners who are looking to venture a little further, just beyond Sydney

### THE BLUE MOUNTAINS – VILLAGES & VALLEYS

Escape the city and travel west to the Blue Mountains - where the spectacular scenery of majestic World Heritage listed area includes sandstone cliffs, gorges and valleys of eucalyptus trees. Discover the Aboriginal legend of the Three Sisters - giant sandstone formations in Jamison Valley.



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Descend the world's steepest railway on a thrilling ride via rock tunnels to the fern-filled forest on the valley floor. After a delicious two-course lunch explore the quaint village of Leura, home to charming antique shops, tearooms and the famous Candy Shop.

### HUNTER VALLEY WINE COUNTRY

Travel inland to the picturesque Hunter Valley – Australia's premier wine region. Tour a large established winery and a smaller boutique vineyard with experts who explain the winemaking process from vine to bottle. Savour award-winning Hunter classics including Chardonnay, Semillon and Shiraz. Enjoy a delicious lunch, stroll through sun-kissed vineyards and learn why Hunter Valley wines are receiving worldwide acclaim.



### AUSTRALIAN BUSH & BEACHES

Discover where Sydneysiders escape to when they need to relax and unwind. North of the harbour delegates will find kilometres of golden beaches, untamed bushland and the beauty of the Hawkesbury River. After cruising the river aboard a local ferry, disembark for lunch at a waterfront restaurant. Travel through Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

and along the coastal road with sweeping vistas of Sydney's best surf beaches. Stop at the vibrant beach resort of Manly and enjoy dramatic views from North Head of the harbour entrance and city skyline.

## 5.2.2 TOURING OPTIONS AROUND AUSTRALIA

### THE DRAMATIC RED CENTRE



Called the Heart of the Nation, the 'Red Centre' is arid, dramatic, vast, a land of extremes and home of Uluru (Ayers Rock) Australia's spectacular monolith. Visitors to this area, will also discover other geological wonders such as Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), Kings Canyon and more.

### REEF AND RAINFOREST

North of Cairns, discover one of the most beautiful regions of Australia, the meeting point ancient rainforest and the Earth's largest living structure. Based in the exclusive village of Palm highlights include swimming and snorkelling on Great Barrier Reef and discovering the beauty of World Heritage listed Daintree rainforest.



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### HAMILTON ISLAND EXPLORER

Located at the edge of the Great Barrier Reef, Hamilton Island is a perfect destination for those seeking an island escape. This tropical paradise boasts fabulous resort accommodation, fine cuisine, and spectacular scenery. Snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, witness a spectacular Whitsunday sunset on a cruise through islands, walk to remote scenic lookouts take a sea-kayaking tour in search of turtles, dolphins and maybe even whales.



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### CRUISE THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Australia's Great Barrier Reef stretches over 3,000 kilometres and features exotic island hideaways,

soft sandy beaches, balmy bays and remote outer reefs. Discover the tropical wonders of Fitzroy and Dunk Islands and Hedley Reef and cruise the Hinchinbrook Channel – a refuge for native birds, dolphins, gentle dugongs and migrating whales.

### **WORLD HERITAGE FRASER ISLAND**

Considered the world's largest sand island, Fraser Island is a miracle of nature. Famous for its ancient rainforests, dramatic coloured sand dunes, pristine freshwater lakes and variety of birds and wildlife,



Fraser Island offers an abundance of experiences to suit all tastes, but especially suited to the nature lover. Visitors will discover the rich Aboriginal heritage and colourful European history on this adventure to the World Heritage listed treasure trove.



### **DISCOVER THE TOP END**

Australia's Northern Territory is part of the world's most ancient landmass. It began forming over 2,000 million years ago. This dramatic land is an exciting destination boasting spectacular wilderness, rare wildlife, rich Aboriginal heritage and hospitable local people.

### **NEW ZEALAND'S SPECTACULAR SOUTH ISLAND**

New Zealand's South Island boasts magnificent Alpine scenery, history, thrilling adventures, superb cuisine and charming towns villages. Come and breathe the fresh South Island air and explore this magical region of New Zealand.



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## **APPENDICES**

## Sydney Accommodation by Precinct

Hotel	AAA Star Rating	Accommodation Rooms	Meeting Rooms	Disabled Access Rooms
<b>Airport</b>				
Hotel Ibis Sydney Airport	3.5	200	0	0
Mercure Hotel Sydney Airport	4	268	11	11
Stamford Plaza Sydney Airport	4.5	313	11	11
<b>Central Business District</b>				
Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney	5	415	5	5
BLUE Sydney, A Taj Hotel	5	100	2	3
Chifley Potts Point	3	226	0	0
Fraser Suites Sydney	0	201	2	201
Hilton Sydney	5	576	23	1
Holiday Inn Potts Point	4	288	5	3
Holiday Inn Potts Point	4	288	5	3
Hotel Ibis World Square	3.5	166	0	166
Hyde Park Forum	4	92	3	2
InterContinental Sydney	5	509	14	13
Mercure Sydney	4	517	9	9
Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney	5	362	8	19
Rydges World Square, Sydney	5	445	7	6
Sheraton On The Park	5	557	16	557
Sofitel Wentworth Sydney	5	436	11	11
swissotel Sydney	5	361	10	7
Sydney Harbour Marriott	5	550	18	16
The Grace Hotel	4.5	382	15	15
The Menzies Sydney, Accor Hotels	4	446	9	1
The Westin Sydney	5	416	13	13
The Women's College - University of Sydney	3	280	10	10
Y Hotel and Conference Centre - Sydney	3.5	121	6	1
<b>Darling Harbour</b>				
Aarons Hotel Sydney	3.5	94	1	1
Citigate Central Sydney	4.5	251	11	3
Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour	4.5	345	8	3
Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour, Sydney	4.5	630	13	1
Grand Mercure Apartments Darling Harbour	4.5	111	0	0
Holiday Inn Darling Harbour	4	304	2	1
Hotel Ibis Darling Harbour c/- Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour	3	256	1	1
Mercure Hotel Ultimo Sydney	3.5	96	3	3
Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour	4.5	230	5	6
Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour	4.5	525	7	7
Oaks Goldsbrough Apartments - Darling Harbour	4	105	0	0
Radisson Hotel & Suites Sydney	4.5	102	5	3
Star City	5	480	10	10

Hotel	AAA Star Rating	Accommodation Rooms	Meeting Rooms	Disabled Access Rooms
<b>Sydney Beaches</b>				
Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach	4.5	209	10	209
Manly Pacific Sydney - Managed by Novotel	4	214	10	3
Novotel Brighton Beach	4.5	296	11	10
Swiss-Grand Resort & Spa Bondi Beach	4.5	202	11	2
The Coogee Bay Hotel	4	51	3	3
<b>Sydney Olympic Park</b>				
Novotel Sydney Olympic Park	4.5	321	8	1
<b>The Rocks</b>				
Four Seasons Hotel Sydney	5	531	7	7
Park Hyatt Sydney	5	158	6	4
Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney	5	563	18	1



## Additional Conference Support

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**SYDNEY CONVENTION  
AND VISITORS BUREAU**

The Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau (SCVB) is a joint venture between government and the tourism industry and has been extremely successful in promoting and encouraging business events in Sydney and NSW for 35 years. With over 300 members representing a range of business tourism suppliers, from 5-star hotels and unique venues to professional conference organisers, we have the expertise, creativity and most of all, the experience to help deliver an outstanding event.

For further information, please visit our website: [www.scvb.com.au](http://www.scvb.com.au)



The Business Events team at Tourism Australia aims to promote Australia as a premium business events destination. A key factor in reaching this objective is the provision of collateral material promoting Australia as a unique and achievable destination which professionally accommodates business events. Collateral includes delegate boosting broadsheets, Aussie dictionaries and posters. Tourism Australia's business events dedicated site, [events.australia.com](http://events.australia.com) also contains a range of downloadable videos, images and PowerPoint presentations and eCards.

For further information please visit: [www.events.australia.com](http://www.events.australia.com)

### INTERNATIONAL EVENT COORDINATOR NETWORK



A key issue for event or conference organisers is the need to be aware, and to make delegates aware, of Australia's requirement that every non-Australian travelling to Australia must obtain a visa before starting the journey. That information is now quickly and easily available through the International Event Coordinator Network (IECN), part of Australia's Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA). The IECN is a designated group of experienced immigration employees who provide visa information to event organisers and their delegates. DIMIA encourages event organisers to contact the nearest IEC as early as possible to ensure problem-free visa arrangements for delegates and participants.

For further information please visit: [www.immi.gov.au/business/iecn.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/business/iecn.htm)



New South Wales  
Department of State and Regional Development

Financial assistance  
may be sought for a

conference where it will bring a demonstrable benefit to employment, research or development in New South Wales. To measure the benefit, DSRD may conduct an Economic Impact Assessment. Areas which need to be addressed in an application for assistance include demonstrating the case for Government support; the comparative advantages and disadvantages of attracting this project to NSW and the direct impacts of the project (financial, social, and environmental).

For further information please visit: <http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/>



The Sydney Convention and Visitors Bureau will, on behalf of your association, approach their key partner airline Qantas to seek support for your conference. Qantas is Australia's leading domestic airline, and is part of the **oneworld** alliance, which has established itself as the most global of the world's airline alliances over the past few years. Now comprising ten of the world's leading airlines - Qantas, American Airlines, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Finnair, Iberia and Lan Airlines, Japan Airlines, Malev Hungarian Airlines, Royal Jordanian - **oneworld** provides services to 571 destinations in 135 countries. For further information please visit: <http://www.qantas.com.au/>



**SYDNEY CONVENTION  
AND VISITORS BUREAU**

**MAJOR SUPPORTERS AND GOLD MEMBERS**

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## TRAVEL AND VISITOR INFORMATION

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### LOCATION

Sydney is a major Asia Pacific city. It is the capital city of New South Wales and the most densely populated state of Australia. On the south-east coast, it is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the east, national parklands and coastline to the north and south, and the spectacular Blue Mountains to the west.

### TIME ZONES

Sydney operates on Eastern Standard Time (EST), which is calculated by adding 10 hours to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

At 12 noon Monday in Sydney it is:

02:00 pm	Monday	Auckland
11:00 pm	Sunday	Buenos Aires
10:00 am	Monday	Hong Kong
04:00 am	Monday	Johannesburg
01:00 am	Monday	London
05:00 pm	Sunday	Los Angeles
08:00 pm	Sunday	New York
02:00 am	Monday	Paris
10:00 am	Monday	Tokyo

During Daylight Saving (from the last Sunday in October to the first Sunday in March) add 11 hours to GMT.

### CUSTOMS

Generous passenger baggage concessions exist for arriving passengers, with travellers allowed to bring into Australia non commercial goods, duty and tax free. Members of the same family who are travelling together may combine their individual duty-free allowances.

- \$AUD400 worth of goods not including alcohol or tobacco (\$AUD200 for travellers under 18 years of age). For example, cameras, electronic equipment, perfume concentrate, leather goods, jewellery, watches, sporting goods, etc.;
- 1125 ml alcoholic liquor (including wine, beer or spirits) for travellers aged 18 years and over;
- tobacco: 250 cigarettes, or 250 grams of cigars or tobacco products other than cigarettes, for travellers aged 18 years and over;
- most personal items such as new clothing, footwear, articles for personal hygiene/grooming;
- personal goods owned and used for at least 12 months can also be brought into Australia

without payment of [duty and sales tax](#)\* (proof of date of purchase may be required); and

Commercial goods brought into Australia with the intention of being sold will be subject to the normal rates of Customs duty and Goods and Services Tax (GST) where applicable. Goods, commercial or personal, that are brought into Australia to remain temporarily, may be admitted duty and tax free, subject to certain conditions.

Carnets may be obtained for temporary duty-free entry of goods such as commercial samples, jewellery, goods for international exhibitions, equipment for sporting events, professional television and film equipment etc. Contact your International Chamber of Commerce for application details.

Goods imported temporarily must meet Australian quarantine requirements.

For more information on importing goods, contact a Customs officer or an Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate overseas, or refer to the Customs brochure *Customs Information for Importers* available at Customs offices in Australia or at Australian diplomatic posts overseas.

## **VACCINATIONS**

Vaccinations are not necessary unless delegates come from a yellow fever infected country zone within six days prior to arrival. No other health certificate is needed to enter Australia.

Twenty-four hour medical clinics operate in Sydney.

## **MONEY MATTERS**

Australia uses a decimal currency system of dollars and cents.

Exchange rates may vary slightly each day, but overall they have been stable in recent years. The current exchange rates for the Australian dollar as at October 2007 are:

	AUD\$1	European Union	0.63 euro
Japan		106yen	
Singapore		1.32 dollars	
UK		44 pence	
USA		90 cents	
Canada		88 cents	

Credit cards are accepted virtually everywhere. The most commonly accepted are VISA, American Express, Bankcard, MasterCard and Diners Club. Traveller's cheques are also widely accepted.

International airports provide money-changing facilities for arriving and departing passengers. Major hotels and banks will also exchange money quickly and efficiently. There is no limit to the amount of currency that delegates may bring into the country.

## **GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

Australia has a Goods and Services Tax (GST). The GST applies at the rate of ten percent to most goods delivered and services performed by businesses and other trading entities. There are situations where the GST applicable could be exempt depending on a number of contributing factors. As there are continuing changes to the GST legislation, organisations planning events in Australia should speak with their meeting manager or the Australian Tax Office for further information regarding the GST.

### The Tourist Refund System

The Tourist Refund System (TRS) allows international travellers to claim a refund of the GST paid on goods you buy in Australia. The refund only applies to goods you take with you as hand luggage when you leave the country. It does not apply to services or goods consumed or partly consumed in Australia. However, unlike other tourist shopping schemes, you can use the goods before leaving Australia.

The refund will be paid on goods costing \$AUD300 or more, bought from the same store, no earlier than 30 days before you leave. You may purchase several lower-priced items from the one store, either at the one time or over several occasions within the 30-day period, provided the total purchase amounts to \$AUD300 or more and the goods are covered by the one tax invoice. You may buy goods from several stores, provided each store's tax invoice totals at least \$AUD300.

If you are leaving Australia through an international airport, you may collect your refund in cash on departure (if the refund is \$AUD200 or less) or choose a non-cash option. Non-cash options include: cheque, credit to an Australian bank account or payment to a credit card. If you choose a non-cash method, Customs will aim to pay your refund in 30 days.

The Rocks, Sydney, tax free shopping scheme (using the traditional closed bag system) allows travellers with a valid departure ticket from Australia to pay the tax-free price (equating to over 9% discount) on purchases in over 40 specialty retail stores in The Rocks.

### Banking hours

Bank hours are: Monday to Thursday from 9:30am to 4:00pm; and on Fridays from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Some banks are open Saturdays. Automatic teller machines (ATMs) are situated throughout the city for the convenience of 24-hour banking.

## IMPORTANT LEGAL CONDITIONS

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9. The SCVB may use the information supplied by the Association/Organisation to assist it to collect service fees payable to it by members to which business has been referred, in respect of or in connection with the Event.