



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Economy and Infrastructure Standing Committee – Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry to study impact of COVID on Victoria’s tourism and events sectors

The Legislative Council’s Economy and Infrastructure Committee will examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Victoria’s tourism and events sectors.

“Domestic and international travel restrictions due to the global pandemic have hit our local economy hard,” said Committee Chair Enver Erdogan. “The impact has been particularly significant in tourism-dependent regions.”

Tourism has significantly declined across Victoria over the past 12 months. This includes in Victoria’s High Country, where tourism generates around one-third of the region’s employment. In 2020, the High Country saw tourist numbers fall by around half, including both domestic and international visitors.

A similar drop in numbers was seen in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, while tourism along the Murray, which provides the largest number of jobs outside of Melbourne, suffered from a nearly 80% drop in international tourism spend.

“Events is another area that’s seen revenues and incomes plunge in the past year,” Mr Erdogan said.

“The events sector, including the arts, sports and business events, has suffered dramatic losses. Modelling has shown that in the City of Melbourne alone many jobs were lost in arts and recreation services with a large economic cost.”

The Committee will provide recommendations for State Government measures that will support the tourism and events sectors in their recovery.

Public submissions to the inquiry are due by Friday, 16 April 2021. The Committee will then report to the Parliament by June 30.

The inquiry’s terms of reference and details on how to make a submission are available from the Committee’s [website](#).

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