

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Trade

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Racing



Thursday, 28 April 2022

MAKING THE MURRAY RIVER ACCESSIBLE FOR MORE VICTORIANS

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting people with a disability to visit the Mildura region and experience the best of the Murray River with a \$500,000 investment in a new accessible houseboat.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula today announced support from the *Regional Tourism Investment Fund* for All Seasons Houseboats to build a six-bedroom accessible vessel.

The new houseboat will feature wheelchair access, improved railings and a lift, as well as impressive luxury amenities including a spa, expansive living space and a larger master bedroom with ensuite.

Established in 2004 with a single small houseboat, All Seasons Houseboats has grown to be one of the largest tourism operators in Mildura with a fleet of 16 vessels. The company will work with a local boat builder to construct the new vessel.

The investment will create more local jobs and add 280 visitor nights to the company's bookings per year, helping to cement it as one of the region's leading inclusive tourism providers. The investment is a strategic move for the Mildura company to tap into new markets as borders reopen and visitors look to book their Australian holiday.

Tourism is big business in Mildura, with the region welcoming more than 809,000 visitors in the year ending December 2019, who spent approximately \$330 million.

The Labor Government's *Regional Tourism Investment Fund* is helping attract more visitors to Victoria's regions, driving private investment and accelerating sector recovery.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula

"We're proud to back local companies that provide inclusive tourism experiences, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to visit our state's best destinations."

"Tourism attractions such as All Seasons Houseboats provide the perfect opportunity to employ more Victorians and welcome more visitors by offering a world-class experience."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"This investment is a big win for the wider Mildura community as it will help attract more visitors to the region, including those who need accessible accommodation options."