

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Monday, 15 July 2024

## ALL ABOARD! HOUSEBOAT ADVENTURES FOR ALL ABILITIES

The Allan Labor Government is making sure more families and friends of all abilities can enjoy an adventure on the Murray River, with the launch of Australia's first-ever supported accessibility houseboat in Mildura.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos today announced the launch of the new luxury houseboat which is set to bring more visitors from interstate and overseas to Mildura, backed by an investment from the Labor Government's *Regional Tourism Investment Fund*.

The new houseboat is operated by All Seasons Houseboats in Mildura, and features wheelchair access, improved railings and a raft of luxury amenities including a spa, an expansive living space and a larger master bedroom with ensuite.

Other supported accessibility features on the six bedroom houseboat include wider corridors, adjustable height benches in the kitchen area and other adaptations to assist people with mobility support needs. It is also the first houseboat in the southern hemisphere to boast a wheelchair accessible elevator.

All Seasons Houseboats owners Sean and Jodie Bromley are proud to say that the boat named *Elevate Luxury* is more than just a symbol of indulgence – it sets a new benchmark for luxury and accessibility on the Murray River.

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 15 vessels. The company worked with local boat builder Baldwin Boats to construct the new vessel.

Tourism is big business in the Mildura-Mallee region, attracting more than 1.3 million visitors in the year ending December 2023 – boosting local jobs, businesses and the economy.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

*"The Murray River is one of the finest places in the world to experience all the fun of houseboating, and the new Elevate Luxury means that people with mobility needs don't have to miss out."*

*"We are very proud to support local companies that are committed to offering inclusive experiences that ensure everyone has the opportunity to visit the very best Victoria has to offer."*