

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Racing



Tuesday, 10 September 2019

JANET WHITING APPOINTED NEW CHAIR OF VISIT VICTORIA

Distinguished lawyer Janet Whiting is to become the new chair of the state’s primary tourism and events body, Visit Victoria.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula today announced that Ms Whiting would succeed Paul Little, who has accepted the position of chair of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation.

Ms Whiting is head of the Disputes and Investigations division at Gilbert + Tobin’s practice in Melbourne and has extensive experience in commercial disputes, corporations law and regulatory areas.

In addition to her new Visit Victoria role, which she takes up on September 16, Ms Whiting is president of the Council of Trustees of the National Gallery of Victoria – the first woman to hold the position in the gallery’s history.

In 2015, Ms Whiting was made a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to the community through the arts, health and major events sectors and for her contribution to the law, and in the same year was inducted on to the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

Ms Whiting is currently a member of the Visit Victoria board and was previously deputy chair of the Victorian Major Events Company and a director of Tourism Australia while having also served as president of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust.

Tourism is a significant economic driver for Victoria and supports more than 232,000 jobs across the state, including more than 85,000 in regional areas.

The Andrews Labor Government has set a target of growing total visitor spending from the current mark of \$30 billion a year to \$36.5 billion by 2025, with an ambition to boost employment in the sector to more than 320,000 jobs over that period.

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

“Janet Whiting brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this important position and I’m thrilled that she has agreed to take the reins at Visit Victoria.”

“The visitor economy creates and sustains jobs by the tens of thousands and we want to make Victoria an even more attractive place for people to visit.”

Quote attributable to incoming Visit Victoria Chair Janet Whiting

“I greatly look forward to helping grow tourism in our great state – this is a privileged role and I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to continue the tremendous work of my predecessors.”