

Thursday, 5 November 2009

UPGRADED CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL OPENS

Nearly 50,000 cruise ship passengers and crew will arrive in Adelaide over the next five months at the city's upgraded cruise ship terminal, unveiled today.

Tourism Minister Jane Lomax-Smith joined with Flinders Ports Chief Executive Vincent Tremaine to officially open the jointly funded \$500,000 revamp of the Outer Harbor terminal.

"We will have a record 27 cruise ships arriving at Outer Harbor in the coming season, a 450% rise since 2004-05," Dr Lomax-Smith says.

"Last season, cruise ships gave our economy a \$7.1 million boost and we're expecting an even bigger gain this season as passengers visit tourist attractions in our city and regions.

"The season starts this weekend with the arrival of two cruise ships – the Sun Princess and Rhapsody of the Seas – carrying up to 4385 passengers.

"This upgraded terminal will give our visitors a better first impression of Adelaide, helping to enhance their experience of our city.

"In another significant development, the Rundle Mall Management Committee will run a free shuttle service to the city for passengers on Princess and P&O ships."

Upgrades to the Port Adelaide Passenger Terminal include:

- a new retail shopping space and visitor information desk
- new streamlined check-in areas for passengers
- upgraded toilets
- new parking for up to 70 cars adjacent to the terminal
- a new drive-through 'loop' to drop-off and pick-up passengers with luggage
- a direct walkway from the terminal to the train station

"These improvements are particularly important in light of growth in the Southern Ocean Cruising concept," Dr Lomax-Smith says.

"For the first time, we have a cruise ship based in South Australia and this season we have four ships selling cruise packages out of Adelaide.

"This great new cruising concept offers stunning coastlines and amazing shore excursions through southern Australia, providing people with new reasons to come to South Australia.

"Flinders Ports should be congratulated for its commitment to the upgrade and its willingness to join with the State Government in bringing this project to fruition.

"I would also like to recognise the ongoing efforts of our team of dedicated 'meet and greet' volunteers who give cruise ship passengers a welcome that is second-to-none."