



## **The Hon Simon Crean MP**

**Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local  
Government  
Minister for the Arts**

**26 October 2010**

### **CHRISTMAS ISLAND PROJECTS WIN NATIONAL ACCLAIM**

The Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP, has congratulated two Christmas Island businesses for achieving national excellence.

Christmas Island Tourism Association Inc and Christmas Island Phosphates both took out awards at the 2010 National Economic Development Awards held in Sydney last night.

“Winning these awards demonstrates the strong community spirit on Christmas Island and their commitment to economic development,” Mr Crean said.

Christmas Island Tourism Association defeated a strong field to take home the Economic Development Partnerships award. They received the award for their work to make possible the first ever cruise ship arrival to Christmas Island in December 2009.

The Association partnered with the Australian Government, the Christmas Island Community and Carnival Australia to bring this valuable tourism revenue into the Christmas Island community.

“The cruise ship’s arrival saw more than 1,700 visitors arriving on one day. A further three ships have been confirmed to visit in the next 12 months,” Mr Crean said.

The Community Economic Development award, presented to Christmas Island Phosphates, highlighted how business can take an active role in assisting communities to develop a sustainable economy.

Christmas Island Phosphates invested more than \$2 million during the past 12 months on projects assisting the community.

“The Australian Government partnered with Christmas Island Phosphates on a number of projects, including the Indian Ocean Territories Entrepreneurial and Leadership Program,” Mr Crean said.

“Economic development involves an integrated whole-of-government approach but cannot succeed without input and collaboration from the community and local businesses.

“These awards for Christmas Island Phosphates and the Christmas Island Tourism Association are a gratifying example of the success that can be achieved when the community and all levels of government work together.”

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