

FOREWORD FROM THE MINISTER

The Ningaloo Eclipse occurring next April will see more than 10,000 visitors travel to Exmouth to witness one of nature's most spectacular natural events - a total solar eclipse.

The picturesque Coral Coast town is in fact the most accessible land-based destination in the world to view this phenomenon that will take place alongside the wonders of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Marine Park. Furthermore, it will occur during the region's popular whale shark season.

The Total Solar Eclipse presents opportunities across the State, with other locations around Western Australia to see a partial Solar Eclipse. This includes Perth which will witness a 70 per cent Eclipse, Coral Bay will experience a 99 per cent partial Eclipse while Geraldton will see just over 80 per cent.

This event will draw large crowds of people from around the globe to Western Australia and inject millions of tourism dollars into the economy and boost jobs. It also presents an opportunity to promote the State's stargazing, astronomy and astrophotography offerings to the world as the international media spotlight shines upon us.

The event will also help the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation activities to inspire young people's interest and uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths studies and careers.

The McGowan Government has been investing significant funding and liaising closely with stakeholders to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors.

Research conducted by Tourism WA has identified Dark Sky Tourism as a growth segment with considerable potential, with 71 per cent of the target market believing it's an experience worth paying for.

With 80 per cent of the world's population now living under a light polluted sky, Western Australia's vast open landscapes and low-level light pollution means it has one of the darkest night skies on the planet and a bright future for astrotourism.

Hon Roger Cook BA GradDipBus MBA MLA

Deputy Premier; Minister for State Development,
Jobs and Trade; Tourism; Commerce; Science.