



Media Release

17 September 2025

Australian Cruise Association Confirms New Board of Management

Following today's Board of Management meeting, the Australian Cruise Association (ACA) is pleased to confirm its new Executive.

Brendan Connell (Port of Brisbane) has been elected as Chair, supported by Kristy Little (TasPorts) as Deputy Chair and Martin Bidgood (Port Authority of New South Wales) as Treasurer.

They will lead the Association alongside fellow Board members Andrew McKinnon (South Australian Tourism Commission), Shayne Murray (Cruise Broome), Joanne Brown (Intercruises Shoreside and Port Services), and Mladen Vukic (APT Travel Group).

ACA CEO, Jill Abel, said:

"We are delighted to welcome Brendan, Kristy and Martin into their new leadership positions. Their expertise and deep knowledge of the cruise sector will ensure the Association is well positioned to guide our members through the exciting opportunities."

"The ACA Board is a true reflection of the diversity of our membership across ports, destinations and service providers. Together, we will continue to deliver on our strategic priorities and strengthen Australia's reputation as a world-class cruise destination," Abel concluded.

About Australian Cruise Association:

ACA is the cooperative marketing body for cruise tourism in the Australia-Pacific region, representing ports, tourism agencies, inbound operators, and cruise facilitators committed to promoting the region as a leading cruise destination.

Media Contacts:

Jill Abel

0419 511 996

ceo@australiancruiseassociation.com

Gemma Axford

0402 506 131

gemma@australiancruiseassociation.com