

Jodi McKay

Minister for Commerce
Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research



EMBARGOED until Friday 6 November 2009

'Markets by Moonlight' on all summer long

Sydneysiders and visitors are being invited to head to The Rocks each Friday night during summer to enjoy free live music, night markets and fabulous food.

Markets by Moonlight kicks off this Friday 6 November and, for the first time ever, will run each Friday through to 26 March next year.

Minister for Tourism Jodi McKay said that extending the popular event will take full advantage of Sydney's summer months and will have the heritage precinct buzzing with live music and market stalls.

"More than 200,000 people are now expected to attend Markets by Moonlight, generating an estimated \$12 million in revenue for businesses in and around The Rocks," Ms McKay said.

"The festival will also provide employment for more than 180 performers, event and production staff, as well as stallholders and staff.

"Visiting The Rocks on a Friday night in November has become a tradition for many Sydneysiders over the last nine years.

"Each week, thousands of visitors kick-start their weekend with friends and family in the historic laneways of Australia's first settlement.

"The extension of Markets by Moonlight will see that tradition continue over five consecutive months, making it one of the longest running events in Sydney.

"The event also coincides with the peak cruise ship season in Sydney when thousands of passengers disembark at The Rocks.

"Businesses in The Rocks, market stallholders and performers will be able to promote their products and talent to a large audience over the extended event period," Ms McKay said.

Highlights of Markets by Moonlight will include:

- performances by 60 bands, including some of Australia's most exciting up-and-coming artists
- music performances in various heritage buildings, including in The Rocks Discovery Museum
- a large number of market stalls offering everything from exclusive clothing to regional produce
- a mouth-watering range of delicious food offerings.

For more information visit www.therocks.com.