



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Peter Gash to attend The GBR Special Screening with Sir David Attenborough**

Managing Director of Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort, Peter Gash, was delighted to receive an invitation to the special screening of Sir David Attenborough's landmark series 'The Great Barrier Reef' being held in London next week.

"It was a very unexpected pleasure and a great honour to receive an invitation to attend the special screening of the Great Barrier Reef documentary in London so how could I say no? Sir David Attenborough is a world renowned naturalist and documentary maker and I would love the opportunity to meet with Sir David and have a chat to him about the Great Barrier Reef. I know that he fell in love with Australia's iconic Great Barrier Reef when he first visited many years ago, just like I did, so I'm glad that he was able to come back to do a documentary showcasing this incredible eco-system."

"As the current leaseholder and custodian of Lady Elliot Island, I am very excited to be going to London as an ambassador of the Southern Great Barrier Reef. As a pilot, I have also had the privilege of visiting many parts of the Great Barrier Reef over the past 25 years and I must say that it never ceases to amaze me. I can't wait for the rest of the world to be able to see the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef through Sir David Attenborough's eyes," said Mr Gash.

Lady Elliot is a true coral cay located on the southern tip of Australia's World Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef, 80kms north-east of Bundaberg, just north of Fraser Island. The Island is situated within a highly protected 'Green Zone' of the Marine National Park and is a sanctuary for over 1,200 species of marine life. Lady Elliot is regarded as one of the best diving and snorkelling locations on the Great Barrier Reef and is renowned for its healthy coral reef and abundance of turtles, manta rays, reef sharks and the entire cast of 'Finding Nemo'.

Atlantic Productions, who were commissioned to produce the 3 part series, visited Lady Elliot Island in June 2015 to film the manta rays in action. Lady Elliot Island is regarded as 'Home of the Manta Ray' and while they can be found in the waters surrounding Lady Elliot Island all year round they aggregate in larger numbers from May to August.

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“Lady Elliot Island is a very unique island at the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef. Its remote location on the edge of the continental shelf gives it some of the clearest water on the reef and also some of the best marine life. It is especially famous for its manta rays – in fact there are consistently more resident manta rays here than virtually anywhere else on the planet. It’s a very special place.”

Doctor Kathy Townsend, Project Manta, University of Queensland

According to John O’Sullivan, Managing Director of Tourism Australia, “Tourism Australia has partnered with Sir David Attenborough, taking him back to the Great Barrier Reef nearly 60 years after his first visit, as part of a new multi-platform media project aimed at inspiring greater interest and more visits to the world’s largest coral reef system.”

“The TV documentary will focus on the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef taking a look at the coral and its characters, meet its visitors from butterflies to whales, and look at the lifecycle of the reef; its history, resilience and threats.”

Tourism Australia is hosting this first global screening of The Great Barrier Reef with Sir David Attenborough in conjunction with the Australian High Commission.

The Great Barrier Reef documentary is expected to air early in 2016 and anticipated to be distributed across more than 130 countries.

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