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## SYDNEY NAMED CRUISE CRITIC'S BEST HOMEPORT IN 2019

Sydney has been named Best Homeport by editors of the world's largest cruise reviews site, Cruise Critic.

The online cruise community announced its 4<sup>th</sup> annual AU Editors' Picks Awards this month, and Sydney was recognised for its iconic surrounds, lifestyle offerings and nearby coastal attractions.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said the accolade was well deserved and reaffirmed Sydney's position as the country's leading cruise destination.

"Sydney continues to be Australia's cruise gateway and one of the world's most beautiful destinations with its iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House and pristine beaches," Minister Ayres said.

"Cruise continues to be an important contributor to the NSW Government's visitor economy target to triple overnight visitor expenditure by 2030.

"Latest industry data shows that NSW's nine ports received 371 cruise ships of more than 100 passengers in the 2017-18 financial year."

The Cruise Critic Editors' Picks Awards are selected by a global panel of impartial cruise experts from the website to highlight the best ports and luxury cruise lines for Australian travellers across dozens of categories.

"Sailing in and out of the world's most beautiful Harbour, past the Sydney Opera House and coastal enclaves is unbeatable," Cruise Critic editors said.

"As all cruise ships dock within this convenient waterway, cruise passengers can easily enjoy the city's iconic beaches, waterfront bars and restaurants, wildlife attractions and museums."

Cruise Critic Australia managing editor Lousie Goldsbury said cruise holidays were growing in popularity among Australian and New Zealand travellers.

For more information on NSW's cruise ports and destinations, go to: www.visitnsw.com.

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# **Media Release**



### **About Destination NSW**

Destination NSW is the lead NSW Government agency for the State's tourism and major events industry and is responsible for devising and implementing strategies to grow the State's visitor economy. Our particular focus is driving tourism and acquiring and developing major sporting and cultural events for Sydney and regional NSW. In addition, Destination NSW is the major investor in Business Events Sydney with the aim of securing more international conventions, incentive travel reward programs, corporate events and exhibitions.

#### Note to editors

Video, images and editorial can be found in the Destination NSW Content Library.