



INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE 2017

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

Time Zone

Perth's time zone is GMT + 8 hours. Perth is based on Australian Western Standard Time (AWST). Daylight Saving Time is not observed in Western Australia.

Climate

Perth has a mixture of the Californian and Mediterranean climates, with mild winters and hot dry summers. Perth is the sunniest capital in Australia with an average of eight hours sunshine a day. The skies above Perth are often bright blue without a cloud in the sky.

VISA

All international delegates, apart from New Zealand citizens, must obtain a Visa or Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) before travelling to Australia. Please ensure you organise your documentation well in advance of travel.

Australia's Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is an electronically-stored authority for travel to Australia for a short-term tourist or business entry. ETAs are issued within seconds of being requested through computer links between the Australian Immigration Department, travel agents, airlines and specialist service providers around the world. Over 30 countries around the world have access to the free ETA system.

Conference delegates from non-ETA countries will need to obtain a Business (short stay) visa, even if some tourism activities are planned for part of the stay in Australia. It is called a 456 visa if it is issued as a label into a passport. For more information visit the [Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs website](#) or [click here for the ETA Application](#).

Driving

Reciprocal driving rights exist between Australia and overseas countries. Your driver's licence must be current. Australian drivers travel on the LEFT hand side of the road and our speed limits are strictly enforced. For more information about driving on WA roads, please visit the [mainroads Western Australia](#) website.

Electricity

Australia's electricity voltage for domestic use is AC 240 volts, 50 cycles. Most hotels have provision for AC 110 volts in the rooms and/or can provide adaptors.

Water

Tap water is filtered, fresh and safe to drink. It conforms to Australian and international drinking water standards.

Medical & Emergency Services

As medical services are not provided free to visitors, it is strongly recommended that health insurance is arranged before arrival. Visitors requiring pharmaceuticals after normal shopping hours should check with their hotel reception or the local Yellow Pages under 'Chemists'. Phone 13 14 44 for police assistance or 000 for emergencies. From mobile phones, the emergency telephone number is 112.

Credit Cards

The practice of payment by credit card is widely accepted throughout Australia. The most common types of cards used in Australia are Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club.





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Shopping

Visitors to Perth are able to shop within the central business district or in one of the many suburban shopping centres. Standard trading hours for general retail shops in the City of Perth are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8am - 9pm (most trade 9am-5.30pm) Friday: 8am - 9pm (most trade from 9am) Saturday: 8am - 5pm (most trade from 9am) Duty free stores are located at the International Airport and at various locations within the CBD.

Telephone

Australia has a modern telephone system with wide mobile phone coverage. For international dialling direct call '0011' followed by the country code, area code and then the local number. To call Australia from overseas the access code is '61' and Perth's area code is '08'.

Banking Hours

Perth's banking hours are generally between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Thursday, and until 5.00 pm on Friday. Some banks and credit societies are open on Saturday mornings, The five largest banks in Western Australia are the ANZ, BankWest, Westpac, the Commonwealth Bank, and National Australia Bank. The head offices of the major banks are usually located in the city, with branches located throughout the metropolitan area.

Western Australia also has a selection of international and other domestic banks. These banks include Citibank, Banque Nationale de Paris, Bank of New Zealand, Chase Manhattan, and the Bank of Melbourne.

Most banks provide convenient automatic teller machines. Foreign currency exchange is available during trading hours.

Language

English is the language of Australia. For an interpreter, call 13 14 50 (24 hours).

Traveller's Cheques

Traveller's cheques can be changed at trading banks, large city hotels and selected trading establishments.

Tipping & Gratuities

Employees in Australia do not depend on tips or gratuities as part of their income. However, it is practiced as a personal choice to tip if the service received has been exceptional.

Taxes

The Goods and Services Tax is a broad based tax of 10 per cent on most supplies of goods and services supplied in Australia. GST replaces wholesale sales tax, which was applied at varying rates to a range of products. GST exemptions include food, health services and international airfares. A Tourist Refund System is available at airports, for more information call 1300 363 263 or visit www.border.gov.au.

Quarantine

Australia is serious about its quarantine regulations. Further information can be sourced [here](#).



**PERTH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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ENGINEERING AUSTRALASIA