
Preface

There is a large literature on tourism economics and so one is entitled to ask: 'why another publication?'. The answer is that there has been a need for a book which provides readers with 'state of the art thinking' on the major topics of tourism economics. To this end we invited leading tourism economists to contribute to the volume. For each topic we asked the authors to address the following issues: importance of topic; overview of main contributions/themes; critical evaluation of existing literature; state of art thinking on the topic; issues for further research (conceptual and applied).

Our aim has been to produce a volume that will be regarded as reflecting 'leading edge' thinking on major topics of tourism economics, by highly reputed scholars. This aim has been achieved. We would expect the book's contents to be widely referenced in the journal literature over the coming years, and 'required reading' for instructors and students of tourism economics, internationally.

We would like to thank the authors who have contributed to the volume. Thanks are also due to the staff at Edward Elgar who have guided its production. Undoubtedly, the biggest vote of thanks must go to our families (Libby Carroll, Eve Carroll-Dwyer and Joan Forsyth) for their support and understanding of the time demands of our research activity. Where we have been inconsiderate in neglecting their needs at times we unreservedly apologize.

Larry Dwyer and Peter Forsyth

