

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
**Additional Estimates 2017-18 – Austrade QON Index**

No.	Senator	BroadTopic	QuestionText	Written Hansard	Proof Hansard Page
1	Linda Reynolds	Northern Australia Investment Forum	CHAIR: ... I'd like to talk about the Northern Australia Investment Forum, please ... Are you able to provide a breakdown of those investment opportunities and who participated by state and territory?	Hansard	127
2	Linda Reynolds	Northern Australia Investment Forum	CHAIR: ... The next question is: where is the next one [Northern Australia Investment Forum] going to be held? Are we moving further west, possibly?	Hansard	127
3	Linda Reynolds	Northern Australia Investment Forum	CHAIR: ... In relation to what you're doing ... have you had any engagement with NAIF? Mr Putt: Only to a certain extent. We don't seem to exchange many ideas on that ... We invited one of the board members to the conference and they did talk about their mandate, but we don't influence what their decision-making process is. CHAIR: I suspected that was the answer, but the reason I asked is that in the north-west, in particular, there are a lot of opportunities, but there's not a lot of coordination. With the way NAIF is currently structured, it hasn't really landed, under its current mandate, a lot of projects because they're looking for things that are pretty much shovel-ready and investors and plans are in place. What I think is missing are the sorts of opportunities you're now providing: bringing local businesses, people from overseas and other Australian companies up to have a look and say, 'Wow, we could actually do something with this,' and make partnerships. With those in place, and working with the shires in terms of the infrastructure needed, I think there would be more projects. It still might take a couple of years, but there would be more projects that would be able to take the opportunity of NAIF. Mr Putt: Senator, thank you for your idea. I'd like to take that as an action that we will do. We will engage with some of the ideas that we've got and talk to them. We actually do have an engagement with them, but I'll get more detail, if you like. CHAIR: Thank you. If you could take that on notice, I would be very interested to see what, if any, opportunities there might be to have some more engagement in those areas.	Hansard	127-128
4	Linda Reynolds	Northern Australia Investment Forum	CHAIR: ... You mentioned three sectors that you focused on at the forum. Can you remind me what those three were again. Mr Putt: Tourism and infrastructure, resource and energy, and agribusiness and food. They were the three. CHAIR: I don't expect you to rattle it off now, but can you provide a breakdown of the companies that attended and what sectors they were from. Obviously, they would be from more than those three. What other sectors were represented there?	Hansard	128
5	Claire Moore	Brand Australia research	Senator MOORE: [In relation to the three brands chosen for the Brand Australia research - Australia Unlimited, There's Nothing Like Australia, Australian Made and Australian Grown] ... Out of all the brands, how did you choose those three? They're fine brands. I'm not making any quality judgement. I'm just saying: how, out of all the brands, did you choose those three? Mr Hazlehurst: I believe they were just the most prominent brands that we have in the marketplace. We could take on notice and provide a little bit more information.	Hansard	128
6	Linda Reynolds	Inquiry into opportunities in Africa	CHAIR: This is probably a question I should know but I have just taken over chairmanship of this committee. Has Austrade made a submission, do you know, to the references committee that Senator Gallacher has on opportunities in Africa? Could you perhaps take that on notice?	Hansard	129
7	Claire Moore	Australian Accommodation Monitor survey	Senator MOORE: Can we get—I'm trying to think of the official technical term—the specifications of the new [Australian Accommodation Monitor survey] product? Mr Donnelly: I can certainly provide that on notice. Senator MOORE: Is there a tender document or a contract to see? We'd like to get some information about how you have changed it [from the ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation] and what the dynamic of	Hansard	141

			that change is. Mr Donnelly: Both of those things are available and we can look to provide them on notice, but I can tell you that both surveys looked at the number of establishments, the number of rooms in those establishments, room occupancy rates, average daily room rates and revenue per available room, so they're the key metrics that both surveys covered.		
8	Claire Moore	Australian Accommodation Monitor survey	Senator MOORE: We will put this on notice too so that you can clearly see what we're after. Have you had any concerns raised with you about the elements of collecting economic data or private data with a private company, an outsourced company? Has that been raised with you as an organisation? Mr Donnelly: Not that I'm aware of, but I can confirm that on notice.	Hansard	142
9	Claire Moore	Australian Accommodation Monitor survey	Senator MOORE: [In relation to the transition from the ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation to the Australian Accommodation Monitor survey] On notice, can you tell me whether there is any transition involved in that, in terms of changing from one methodology to another, for the first year?	Hansard	142
10	Alex Gallacher	Ministerial functions	In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2017, can the following please be provided: (a) List of functions; (b) List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff; (c) Function venue; (d) Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); (e) Details of any food served; (f) Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and (g) Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	
11	Alex Gallacher	Departmental functions	In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2017, can the following please be provided: (a) List of functions; (b) List of attendees; (c) Function venue; (d) Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); (e) Details of any food served; (f) Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and (g) Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	
12	Alex Gallacher	Executive office upgrades	Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, upgraded in calendar year 2017? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?	Written	
13	Alex Gallacher	Facilities upgrades	Were the facilities of any of the Department's premises upgraded in calendar year 2017, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive)? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?	Written	
14	Alex Gallacher	Staff travel	What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental employees in calendar year 2017?	Written	
15	Alex Gallacher	Media monitoring	What was the Department's total expenditure on media monitoring in calendar year 2017?	Written	
16	Alex Gallacher	Advertising and information campaigns	What was the Department's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in calendar year 2017?	Written	
17	Alex Gallacher	Promotional merchandise	What was the Department's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in calendar year 2017?	Written	
18	Alex Gallacher	Ministerial overseas travel	Can a copy of all correspondence exchanged between Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio and the Prime Minister in relation to approval for overseas travel in calendar year 2017 please be provided?	Written	
19	Alex Gallacher	Credit cards	(a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for agency staff? (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in calendar year 2017 and what was it for? (c) How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2017? (d) How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2017? (e) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in calendar year 2017? (f) How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in calendar year 2017 and what was the cost of their replacement? (g)	Written	

			How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy in calendar year 2017? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in calendar year 2017 and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? (h) What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in calendar year 2017? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid? (i) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes? (j) Can a copy of the agency's staff credit card policy please be provided?		
20	Alex Gallacher	Prime Minister's trip to America	(a) In regards to the PM's February 2018 trip to Washington, who organised the business delegation? (b) What role did the Business Council of Australia have a role in organising the business delegation? (c) Is there precedence in having the BCA organise a business delegation? (d) Outline the arrangements in having the BCA organise the business delegation. Did the government procure the BCA to organise the business delegation? If so, at what cost? (e) Can Austrade outline how the business delegates were selected to attend? (f) Does Austrade think it's appropriate that only 3 women attended as part of the business delegation? (g) Does Austrade have any focus on gender balances when putting these delegations together?	Written	
21	Carol Brown	Survey of Tourist Accommodation	(a) What was the total cost to the Australian Government of producing the Survey of Tourist Accommodation before it was privatised? (b) How much is STR global being paid to deliver the Australian Accommodation Monitor? (c) (If they say it is Commercial-in-Confidence) How can industry and the Australian taxpayer be sure they are receiving value for money? (d) Does Tourism Australia or Austrade have any concerns, or has anyone from industry or the public raised concerns with you about the outsourcing of this important economic data collect to private interests?	Written	
22	Carol Brown	Regional tourism infrastructure investment	(a) Can you confirm that the share of tourism income going to regional Australia has fallen from 44 cents in the dollar in 2015-16 to 43 cents in the dollar 2016-17? (b) Our calculations indicate this works out to be \$1.2 billion less going to regional Australia in the last year alone. Is this of concern? (c) What's more, the propensity for international visitors to disperse into Australia's regions also declined in 2016-17. Given international visitor numbers are booming, what steps are you (both AusTrade and Tourism Australia) taking to encourage regional dispersal? (d) What current programs exist that ensure investment in regional tourism infrastructure? (e) How much money has the Government spent on investment in regional tourism infrastructure in the past year? (f) Could you please update us on the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Investment Strategy? (g) How much investment has this attracted? Where? (h) How much has the Federal Government spent on this strategy? (i) Has it invested in any regional tourism infrastructure itself? (j) What are the measures of success for this strategy?	Written	
23	Carol Brown	TDDI - update	(1) How many projects have been approved since 26 October 2017? (2) How many projects have been approved in total? (3) Please list each project with project name, proponent, address, state, federal electorate, project description, commonwealth contribution, details of any other funding including source, total project cost, number of jobs expected to be created during and post construction, date of approval, date of public announcement, expected project start date, whether commenced, and expected completion date or completion date, details of any openings or events attended by the minister with date, title of event, location of event, attendee list and copies or links to all media coverage including newspaper articles. Please also provide a link to relevant ministerial media release eg joint release with state minister, local MP. (4) What is the total expenditure to date for this program? (5) How much funding remains unallocated? Please provide a breakdown by state. (6) What is the forward plan to allocate remaining funds? Please provide a timeline. (7) Please provide an updated list of all accommodation operators funded under this program including state or territory, proponent, name of project, value of grant, nature of grant (ie what will funding be spent on within	Written	

			the project). Please indicate whether the company is Australian or foreign owned. (8) Of the TDDI projects which have been approved to date: (a) are any owned or operated by foreign companies or proprietors? Please list. (b) please provide the ACN or ABN for Australian-based businesses, companies or entities in receipt of a grant.		
24	Carol Brown	Tourism Refund Scheme	Has Austrade met with any further stakeholders or third parties in relation to the TRS since last estimates? If so please list meetings with names, dates, time, location, agenda and minutes.	Written	
25	Carol Brown	Stakeholder meetings	Which tourism stakeholders has Austrade met with since last estimates? Please list meeting date, company/organisation, nature of meeting and topics discussed.	Written	
26	Carol Brown	Tourism Research Australia	Please provide a list of all staffing changes including overall numbers, date, reason since the October estimates.	Written	
27	Carol Brown	Staffing	Please provide a list of all staffing changes including overall numbers, date, reason since the October Estimates.	Written	
28	Carol Brown	Research	(a) Have there been any changes to the expected publication schedules since last estimates? (b) If yes, please detail with original expected publication date and actual publication date. (c) Does Austrade or Tourism Australia anticipate any additional delays to publications over the next year aside from those detailed in last estimates answers? If so, please detail publication, reason, and expected length of delay.	Written	
29	Carol Brown	Research roundtables	(a) When was the last roundtable held? What were the key outcomes? (b) Who participates in the research roundtables? Please list attendees for each meeting, including nominated business leaders and academics that have been invited to participate in the various roundtables.	Written	
30	Carol Brown	Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT)	(a) Have there been any changes to the meeting schedule since the last Senate Estimates? (b) When was the last meeting held and what is the forward meeting schedule? (c) How has the data plan progressed and when will it be complete? (d) Has it identified any gaps in current available data sets and, if so, what are they? (e) Have there been any changes to membership since the last Senate Estimates?	Written	
31	Carol Brown	Tourism major project Facilitation Service	(a) How many projects are currently being facilitated? What progress has been made since last estimates? (b) How many of these projects are now under construction? (c) Please provide detailed updates on the status of all projects utilising the service including project name, proponent name, value of project, expected start and completion date and funding partners.	Written	
32	Carol Brown	Tourism Research Committee (TRC)	(a) When was the last committee meeting? What actions have been taken as a result? (b) Please detail any changes to membership since the last estimates? (c) Please provide the forward schedule of meetings for 2018.	Written	
33	Carol Brown	Minister	Has Minister Ciobo visited the offices of Austrade, Tourism Australia or Tourism Research Australia since the last Estimates? If yes, what dates and what was the nature of the visits?	Written	
34	Carol Brown	Tourism 2020	(a) Please provide an update on the progress made on each of the main key performance indicators adopted for Tourism 2020 since the last Senate Estimates (increase in overnight visitor spend, increase in international and domestic aviation capacity, increase in visitor accommodation, increase in number of jobs, increase in visitor numbers from key Asian markets). (b) How regularly will the Beyond 2020 Steering Committee meet? Please provide the meeting schedule. (c) What are the Committee's Terms of Reference? Please provide. (d) Please provide a membership list. (e) When is the Committee expected to release its findings?	Written	
35	Carol Brown	Tourism Access Working Group	(a) How many meetings of the TAWG have there been since the last Senate Estimates? (b) On how many occasions has the 'regular government-industry stakeholder forum on Australia's bilateral air service negotiations' been held? Please provide dates and locations.	Written	