

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates

29 May 2012

Question: BR17

Topic: National Tourism Research Agenda

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Senator Bushby asked:

Senator BUSHBY: What are the priorities of Tourism Research Australia? You have got that modelling that we are talking about. What are their priorities? What are they using those scarce resources to do?

Dr Jago: Having recently joined Tourism Research Australia, in terms of the research priorities, we do a lot of work in terms of the satellite accounts. We are in the process of releasing the state based tourism satellite accounts. We are doing some work at the moment on the impact of the mining boom on the tourism sector. We hope that will be released in July. There is an advisory board meeting coming up next month. From that our research agenda will be further fleshed out in terms of the modelling capacity. Internally we have a computable general equilibrium model that can be used in support of policy development.

Senator BUSHBY: The impact of the mining boom on the tourism sector that is with a view to the impact on staffing and things like that, is it?

Dr Jago: Across the board.

Senator BUSHBY: Across the board. What sorts of factors is that looking at?

Dr Jago: It is looking at labour supply, investment, resources being sucked from one sector to another et cetera. It will be a fairly comprehensive assessment.

Senator BUSHBY: When is that going to be?

Dr Jago: The modelling is being done literally as we speak. We are hoping that will be released in July.

Mr Clarke: Could I take on notice to give you the national tourism research agenda, which is the broad architecture agreed by the Tourism Ministers' Committee which provides an overarching context in addition to Dr Jago's answer?

Senator BUSHBY: That would be good.

Answer:

The National Tourism Research Agenda (the Agenda) provides a framework for identifying and informing both current and future tourism research priorities. These priorities are consistent with the policy objectives of phase one of the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy, and are structured around four main themes:

1. Current market dynamics;
2. Emerging trends;
3. Productive capacity; and
4. Dissemination.

The Agenda seeks to engage the full spectrum of tourism-specific and industry-related research participants such as government, industry, and academic institutions, to address identified research gaps. Coordination and development of tourism research and analysis activity under the agenda framework is a key priority for the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.

The Tourism Research Advisory Board (Advisory Board) oversees the development and implementation of the Agenda.

The Advisory Board is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and includes representatives from Tourism Research Australia, Tourism Australia, state tourism organisations, industry, unions and the academia sector.

To be consistent with phase two of the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy (that is, Tourism 2020), the Advisory Board is updating the Agenda. The updated Agenda reflects the six strategic priorities of Tourism 2020. They are:

1. Grow demand from Asia;
2. Build competitive digital capability;
3. Encourage investment and implement the regulatory reform agenda;
4. Ensure tourism transport environment supports growth;
5. Increase supply of labour, skills and Indigenous participation; and
6. Build industry resilience, productivity and quality.

In October 2011, Australia's Tourism Ministers approved the direction and evolution of the Agenda. The Agenda is published on the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism's website: www.ret.gov.au. A copy is provided at **Attachment A**.