

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates

28 May 2012

**Question:** BR44  
**Topic:** Social Media  
**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Bushby asked:**

Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commissions Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. If no, please explain why not.

**Answer:**

***Department***

At the time of the question, the Department was in the process of drafting a new social media policy in accordance with the Australian Public Service Commissions Circular 2012/1. The policy has now been approved and circulated to all staff.

***Tourism Australia***

Tourism Australia (TA) updated its Code of Conduct in February 2012 to include provisions on staff usage of social media. TA is not subject to the *Australian Public Service Act 1999* and therefore actively uses social media as part of its overall advocacy and marketing strategy.

***Geoscience Australia***

No changes have been made to Geoscience Australia's (GA) social media policy following the Australian Public Service Commission's circular, as GA's guidelines remained compliant.