

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 55
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Australian Heritage Strategy
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

1. The Government has stated that it intends to give the private sector more of a role in Australia's heritage, such as through greater integration with the tourism industry. What have the submissions said about these proposals?
2. Has there been support for this strategy?
3. What are some of the examples being discussed about greater private sector involvement?

Answer:

1. In submissions in response to the draft Australian Heritage Strategy there was broad support for partnerships and collaboration with the tourism sector and for developing innovative partnerships across governments, community groups and businesses.
2. Most submissions received were supportive of the draft Strategy. Those submissions that did refer to heritage tourism partnerships and collaboration were supportive of:
 - a. applying lessons learnt from existing successful heritage tourism examples more broadly;
 - b. exploring new ways of promoting heritage places while ensuring the associated heritage values are sufficiently protected from the resultant increased visitation; and
 - c. continuing to explore Indigenous employment opportunities through cultural heritage tourism.
3. Public submissions were supportive of examples such as the Green Army Programme's empowerment of community heritage conservation efforts; the exploration of new philanthropic funding partnership opportunities such as the Reef Trust; and the encouragement and greater promotion within the Strategy of existing private sector efforts in heritage management and conservation through websites such as Australia's Community Heritage. Submissions were also supportive of community partnerships that will lead to better tourism promotion of the values, experiences, and stories associated with National and World Heritage places.