

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Wong** to Austrade

QUESTION 1

Australian Business Week in India (ABWI)

Page 119 – 120 of proof Hansard.

Senator WONG: Do you have to hand, or on notice can you provide, the following information [in relation to Australian Business Week in India]: [a] how many Australian businesses attended; [b] the process for invitation and selection for inclusion on the trip; ... [c] how many Austrade staff were involved in the planning and organisation of the event; [d] how many Austrade staff attended; ... [e] the overall cost to the department of this event? ... [f] How many government MPs attended? ... [g] other on-costs such as staff time and so forth.

Answer

[a] How many Australian businesses attended?

Answer: There were 437 registered delegates for ABWI 2015, representing 309 companies, industry associations, educational institutions and government agencies. In addition, 54 business representatives participated in the Vibrant Gujarat programme.

[b] What was the process for invitation and selection for inclusion in the trip?

Answer: The opportunity to participate in ABWI was advertised to Australian businesses through an electronic Direct Mail (eDM) campaign conducted by Austrade in October and November 2014. A total of 14,211 individuals from 7,257 organisations were invited to express their interest in joining this mission through this eDM campaign. These contacts were sourced from Austrade's client management database. In addition, Austrade provided relevant federal, state and territory government counterparts and industry associations with a hyperlink to the ABWI registration page and invited them to circulate this link to their own business contacts. Each business that submitted an expression of interest was assessed by Austrade based on the business's suitability for one of the fourteen sectoral programmes and the value they would provide to the mission.

[c] How many Austrade staff were involved in the planning and organisation of the event?

Answer: 82.

[d] How many Austrade staff attended?

Answer: In addition to Austrade staff already located in South Asia, 24 Austrade staff travelled to India to support and deliver the ABWI programme. These staff were drawn from Austrade offices in Asia, Europe and Australia.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Wong** to Austrade

[e] What was the overall cost to the department [Austrade] of this event?

Answer: The overall direct cost of ABWI was A\$1.2 million, of which A\$0.3 million was covered by corporate sponsorship and A\$0.9 million came from Austrade's budget.

[f] How many government MPs attended?

Answer: Four Federal Government MPs and Senators attended.

In addition, the Hon Mike Baird MP, NSW Premier and the Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, South Australian Minister for Investment and Trade attended.

[g] What other on-costs such as staff time and so forth?

Answer: Staff time and other on-costs are estimated to be approximately A\$0.8 million.

QUESTION 2

Senior Investment Specialists

Page 120 of proof Hansard.

Senator WONG: Thank you. In your annual report you reported that the minister had requested that you establish a small team of senior investment specialists to boost the capacity of the investment division. I presume the minister gave you a direction to that effect; is that how that was transmitted?

Mr Gosper: That was one of the policy initiatives the minister brought when elected and came into government. We put that in place.

Senator WONG: How many are there?

Mr Gosper: Five.

Senator WONG: When were they appointed?

Mr Gosper: I would have to give you the precise dates on notice. The fifth has just been appointed.

Answer

The Senior Investment Specialists were appointed between July 2014 and February 2015.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015
Questions on Notice from **Senator Wong** to Austrade

QUESTION 3

TradeStart

Page 120 – 121 of proof Hansard.

- a. **Senator WONG:** Can you provide the locations of each TradeStart office or facility to be provided under the new round of TradeStart agreements finalised with TradeStart partners in 2014?
Mr Gosper: There are currently 28 officers. I will have to take that on notice. I do not recall—
- b. **Senator WONG:** That is fine. How many TradeStart officers or advisers are to be employed under the new round of TradeStart agreements finalised with trade start partners in 2014?
Mr Gosper: I will need to take that on notice.
- c. **Senator WONG:** Sure. What is the total amount of funding budgeted for TradeStart in the current financial year and in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?
Mr Gosper: I will take that on notice as well.

Answer

- a. & b. The table at **Attachment A** provides the locations for TradeStart Offices following the 2014 contract negotiations. A total of 29 advisers are to be employed.
- c. The amount of Austrade funds budgeted for TradeStart contracts in 2014–15 is \$2.68 million; in 2015–16 is \$2.72 million and in 2016–17 will be \$2.76 million.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Wong** to Austrade

ATTACHMENT A

TradeStart locations and TradeStart partners 2014–18

Region	Office location
NSW	
Sydney South and South West	Miranda
Mid-North and North Coast	Port Macquarie
Central Coast and Hunter	Gosford
Southern Highlands	Nowra
Southern NSW	Wagga Wagga
Western NSW	Orange
	Tamworth
ACT	
ACT and Surrounds	Canberra
VIC	
South West Victoria (Geelong/Ballarat)	TBA
Melbourne South and East	Melbourne
Central/ Northern Victoria	Albury Wodonga
QLD	
Brisbane Greater Metro	Brisbane
Gold Coast	Gold Coast
Central Queensland	Rockhampton
	Mackay
North Queensland	Cairns
	Townsville
Sunshine Coast & Wide Bay	Maroochydore
Darling Downs	Toowoomba
WA	
South and South West WA	Bunbury (2 advisers)
Perth Greater Metro	Perth
SA	
Adelaide Greater Metro	Adelaide (2 advisers)
South East SA	Mt Gambier
North and West SA	Port Augusta
Riverland	Berri
NT	
Northern Territory	Darwin
TAS	
Tasmania	Hobart

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Singh** to Austrade

QUESTION 4

Cadbury

Page 122 – 123 of proof Hansard.

- a. **Senator SINGH:** If the business case does stack up [in relation to the Cadbury business case, which is currently with the Minister for Trade and Investment], when will the money be contracted and what is the schedule for construction of the project?
Mr Gosper: I will have to take that on notice before we can give that answer.
- b. **Senator SINGH:** Do the guidelines for this grant take into account the parent company's profits?
Mr Gosper: I do not believe so. I would have to take that on notice.
- c. **Senator SINGH:** Under the guidance, will Cadbury be required to outline how it will create 320 jobs and what those jobs will be before it can be approved for funding? Or can it be approved without that kind of detail?
Mr Gosper: I will take that on notice.
- d. **Senator SINGH:** Can you provide a copy of the business case to the committee.
Mr Gosper: The minister indicated last year that he would have some difficulty in doing that without the agreement of the company, so I would have to take that on notice.
Senator SINGH: Can you take that on notice with the proviso that once you seek that from the minister you can provide the copy to the committee.
Mr Gosper: I will take it on notice.
- e. **Senator SINGH:** The Prime Minister also said there would be a cocoa-growing trial in the Ord River. When will the new cocoa plantation be up and running?
Mr Gosper: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer

a. – e. On 4 March 2015, the Managing Director Australia New Zealand of Mondelez International (parent company of Cadbury) wrote to Austrade advising that Cadbury was formally withdrawing from the grant application process.

QUESTION 5

China Visa Applications

Page 125 – 126 of proof Hansard.

- a. **Senator GALLACHER:** This is the visa program quarterly report, 31 December 2014. I only got a print of it; I did not get it—
Ms Lewis: I do not have all of the processing times with me, so I can take that on notice.
Senator GALLACHER: Perhaps someone can take that on notice: what is the actual time for a person [Chinese Visitor] who rocks up to a travel agent [to obtain an Australian visa]? Do they have to wait four weeks to get a visa to come to Australia?
Ms Lewis: Yes.
Senator Scullion: I will ensure that gets taken on notice by the appropriate people.
- b. **Senator GALLACHER:** I have found that table where it says that, for a standard visitor visa lodged outside Australia, if you are considered low risk, it can take a day for approval; if you are considered high risk, it can take a month. The list of ETA eligible passports which are considered low risk—and it goes through and sets out the countries. China is not on it.
CHAIR: Ms Lewis, you will take that on notice?
Ms Lewis: Yes, and we would need to consult with the department of immigration.

Answer

This question should be directed to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

QUESTION 6

UNWTO withdrawal

Page 126 – 127 of proof Hansard.

- a. **Senator SINGH:** Do you know what the rationale is behind withdrawing, other than following other countries like sheep?
Ms Lewis: Senator, I think it is appropriate that we take that on notice.
- b. **Senator SINGH:** Can you tell me what the key benefits are of membership of the UNWTO?
Ms Lewis: We will take that on notice Senator.
- c. **CHAIR:** There cannot be too many by the sound of it.
Senator SINGH: The annual leadership course?
Ms Lewis: We will take that on notice.
- d. **Senator SINGH:** What events Australia has participated in previously as a member?
Ms Lewis: We will take that on notice.
- e. **Senator SINGH:** Could you also take on notice ... [to provide a list of] countries [that] are members of the UNWTO?
Mr Gosper: Yes, Senator.

Answer

Refer to DFAT response 91.

QUESTION 7

Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund

Page 127 and 129 of proof Hansard.

- a. **Senator SINGH:** [in relation to the \$4.83 million Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund] When will the money actually be delivered to projects for Tasmania?
Ms Lewis: I will take that on notice.
- b. **Senator SINGH:** Will there be a competitive grants program?
Ms Lewis: I will take that on notice. We are working with the Tasmanian government around how they want to disperse the money.
- c. **Senator SINGH:** So you are currently working with the Tasmanian government and you have been doing that for the last 18 months?
Ms Lewis: I would have to take that on notice. I think the money was only appropriated in the budget this year.
- d. **Senator SINGH:** What about an expected time line for the funding to flow to the Tasmanian government?
Ms Lewis: I cannot give you that.
Senator SINGH: Is it in the next month, the next six months, another 18 months? Do you have no idea at all? Do you not have a ballpark figure at all?
Ms Lewis: I will take that on notice.
- e. **Senator SINGH:** Both you and the Tasmanian government are working through them but you are working through them incredibly slowly. It is incredibly frustrating, especially for people in the tourism sector and for jobs growth for Tasmanians as well, who desperately need jobs to grow. What about when successful applicants might actually receive funding? Do you think it would be this year?
Ms Lewis: I will have to take that on notice.
- f. **Senator SINGH:** Can I just finish on this regional package for Tasmania. With this tourism infrastructure and innovation fund for Tasmania, is that dollar for dollar?
Mr Gosper: I do not believe so.
Ms Lewis: I do not believe so, but can I take that on notice.
Senator SINGH: I do not believe so, either.
Ms Lewis: I am 99.9 per cent sure that it is not.
- g. **Senator SINGH:** What role has the state government or the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania had in the development of this fund?
Mr Gosper: We will have to consult with Tasmania and give you the answer to that question, Senator.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015
Questions on Notice from **Senator Singh** to Austrade

Answer

- a. It is expected the Project Agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmania for the \$4.38 million Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund (RTIIF) will be settled in the coming months. The first funding instalment will be transferred once the agreement is signed.
- b. That is a matter for the Tasmanian Government.
- c. The RTIIF funding was transferred to the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio in the 2014-15 budget.
- d. Refer to a.
- e. Refer to a.
- f. That is a matter for the Tasmanian Government.
- g. The Tasmanian Government has recently established a Tourism Supply Steering Committee which is working to identify projects to be funded under RTIIF. The Tourism Industry Council Tasmania is a member of the Committee.

QUESTION 8

Tourism Demand-Driver Infrastructure Programme (TDDI)

Page 129 – 130 of proof Hansard.

- a. **Senator SINGH:** ...[in relation to the TDDI Programme] I understand the tourism ministers meeting has agreed on guidelines for this program? Can they be tabled?
Mr Gosper: Yes. I can refer to the guidelines if you would like.
Senator SINGH: And could we have a copy?
Mr Gosper: I will take it on notice, and we will give it to you in that fashion—would that be acceptable?
- b. **Senator SINGH:** Can you tell me the dollar amounts for each state.
Mr Gosper: Yes, I can. It was a formula agreed by the states and territories, and all ministers. Would you like the figures for 2014-15, or the total over the four years?
Senator SINGH: Both.
Mr Gosper: ... I will give you the figures on notice.

Answer

- a. Tourism Demand-Driver Infrastructure (TDDI) programme funding will be managed through a Project Agreement between the Commonwealth and the states and territories. At the 11 July 2014 Tourism Ministers' Meeting a set of overarching principles were agreed for the programme. The principles have been incorporated into the Project Agreement and are as follows. States and territories will:
- align projects to one or more of the *Tourism 2020* strategic areas or to a request by Tourism Ministers
 - demonstrate that each project will yield a return on the government's investment across the tourism supply chain
 - ensure the provision of funding that at least matches the Australian Government's contribution, noting that the funding can be sourced from either the public or private sector, or a combination of both. In kind contributions are not considered as matching funds
 - not use funding to create state-based substitutes for T-QUAL and TIRF grants
 - cooperate on spending funds on projects where benefits cross state borders
 - report annually on progress to the Australian Government through the Tourism Ministers' Meetings.

TDDI projects are also expected to align strategically with relevant state, regional and destination plans. Projects should create and encourage visitation to a destination; increase visitor expenditure; and increase tourism quality, to assist the tourism industry in meeting *Tourism 2020* targets.

Projects must fall into at least one of the following categories:

- Environmental – the development or enhancement of natural assets such, but not limited to, protected and recreational areas, public spaces such as beaches and parks and walking trails

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Singh** to Austrade

- Built – such as, but not limited to, mixed-used facilities, convention and events facilities, cultural institutions, entertainment and sporting facilities, city/town precincts and attractions
- Transport – such as, but not limited to, roads, rail networks, ports and airports;
- Enabling – such as, but not limited to, Indigenous tourism development, the development of tourism networks, plans and feasibility studies, and programmes to improve industry capability and capacity (eg business planning, workforce development, cultural awareness, and digital product development).

There are a number of activities that will be considered ineligible for the purposes of the TDDI programme. These activities are: marketing, advertising or product promotion; regular repairs and maintenance; upgrading or developing facilities predominantly for local communities; engaging or paying permanent employees; buying or leasing real estate of any type; and administrative or running costs that are normally the responsibility of a business, state or territory administration or local council.

b. TDDI funding is profiled over four years from 2014–15.

(\$ million)	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	Total
New South Wales	2.452	2.379	2.379	2.379	9.589
Victoria	1.846	1.791	1.791	1.791	7.219
Queensland	2.011	1.951	1.951	1.951	7.864
Western Australia	1.295	1.256	1.256	1.256	5.063
South Australia	1.019	0.989	0.989	0.989	3.986
Tasmania	0.799	0.775	0.775	0.775	3.124
Australian Capital Territory	0.799	0.775	0.775	0.775	3.124
Northern Territory	0.799	0.775	0.775	0.775	3.124
Total	11.02	10.69	10.69	10.69	43.09

QUESTION 9

Tourism Data Delays

Page 132 of proof Hansard.

Senator GALLACHER: [in relation the delay of critical tourism figures by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection] when did you and Tourism Australia first become aware of this?

Mr Gosper: Quite recently.

Senator GALLACHER: On Monday, 23 February, the same as the rest of us? You read it in the paper?

Ms Lewis: No. I would have to take it on notice....

Answer

Austrade first became aware of the delays on 1 December 2014.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015
Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 10

Cadbury

- a. What will happen to the \$16 million allocated to Cadbury in the 2014-15 Budget?
- b. Will this funding stay in the Austrade portfolio?
- c. Is this funding still allocated for Tasmanian tourism projects? If not, where will the funding be redirected to?
- d. When will new program guidelines be announced?
- e. Will any of the funds be used to reinstate the Tourism Industry Regional Fund?

Answer

- a. The Government will make a decision shortly.
- b. Refer to a.
- c. Refer to a.
- d. Refer to a.
- e. The Tourism Industry Regional Development Fund is a terminating programme finishing on 30 June 2015. Funding has been redirected to the Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Programme.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015
Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 11

AWIC

- a. How much funding is allocated for Australia Week in China in 2016?
- b. What dates will AWIC be held in 2016 and in which locations? Please provide any draft agendas.
- c. Did the Minister receive any gifts as part of Australia Week in China 2014? If so please detail.

Answer

- a. A total of \$2 million has been appropriated for Australia Week in China in 2016.
- b. Detailed planning, including agreement on dates for AWIC 2016 has not yet commenced.
- c. No.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015
Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 12

Northern Australia White Paper

Has Austrade and/or Tourism Australia contributed to the Government's Northern Australia White Paper? If so, please details.

Answer

Yes. Austrade has contributed advice to the Government's Northern Australia White Paper, which will be considered by Government.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 13

Tourism Refund Scheme

- a. Is Austrade currently performing any work on the Tourist Refund Scheme? If so, what is the nature of the work?
- b. Has Austrade met with any stakeholders or third parties in relation to the TRS? If so please list meetings with names, dates, time, location, agenda and minutes.

Answer

- a. No.
- b. Members of the Tourism Shopping Reform Group have met with Austrade on two occasions (since October 2014).
 - Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) – 4pm, Tuesday 25 November 2014, teleconference.
 - Attendees: Sean Jenner (Austrade), Spiro Kavadias (Austrade), Dean Long (AFTA), Leigh Obradovic (KPMG), Andrew McGhee (KPMG).
 - As this meeting was for the purpose of informal information sharing and a general update, no agenda or minutes were developed.
 - Treasury – 9.30am, Friday 12 December 2014, teleconference.
 - Attendees: Sean Jenner (Austrade), Daniel Boyer (Austrade), Ray Harris (Treasury), Dean Long (AFTA), John Hart (Restaurant and Catering Australia), Leigh Obradovic (KPMG), Kate Barrett (KPMG).
 - As this meeting was for the purpose of informal information sharing and a general update, no agenda or minutes were developed.

QUESTION 14

ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation

- a. Has funding been secured for the Survey of Tourist Accommodation from 2014–15 onwards and over the forward estimates? If so please detail where the funding is coming from and how much.
- b. Please detail the dates the Survey of Tourist Accommodation is due to be published over the forward estimates.

Answer

- a. The question of how to fund the Survey of Tourist Accommodation from 2014-15 onwards and over the forward estimates is under consideration.
- b. Dates are not yet available.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015
Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 15

Aquis

- a. Has Austrade met with Tony Fung or any representatives of Aquis? If so, on what dates and where and provide a copy of any briefing provided to the Minister's office.
- b. Has Austrade offered Aquis or representatives any assistance or advice in relation to the proposed development? If so please detail.

Answer

- a. Yes. Austrade met with Tony Fung and representatives of Aquis on the following dates in Hong Kong: 29 August 2013; 28 March 2014; 16 October 2014; 17 March 2015; and 25 March 2015. Briefing on the Aquis project was provided to Minister Robb's office. This briefing material constitutes advice to government and was provided to the Minister's office on a confidential basis.
- b. Yes. Austrade has provided general information and advice about Australia's tourism infrastructure investment priority.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015
Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 16

MOU with Carnival Australia

Does Austrade have any role in the MOU between Carinval Australia and AusAID? If so, what?

Answer

No.

QUESTION 17

Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme

- a. Are tourism operators eligible to apply for the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme?
- b. Has the Minister made any representations regarding tourism operator's eligibility for the EIP? If so what was the nature of those representations?

Answer

- a. Tourism operators are eligible to apply for the Accelerating Commercialisation element under the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme.
- b. The Minister for Trade and Investment wrote to the Minister for Industry in October 2014 to seek inclusion of the tourism industry in the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme.

QUESTION 18

Stakeholder Meetings

Which tourism stakeholders has Austrade met with since last estimates? Please list meeting date, company/organisation, nature of meeting and topics discussed.

Answer

Information on official, multilateral meetings with tourism stakeholders is attached at **Attachment A**. Austrade officials across the organisation meet continually with tourism stakeholders on an individual basis, at conferences and other forums as part of their day-to-day operational activities. Sourcing details for each such meeting would entail a significant diversion of resources which, in the circumstances, cannot be justified.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

Attachment A

Tourism stakeholder meetings

Date	Company/Organisation	Nature of meeting	Topics discussed
24/10/2014	Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT) attended by senior executives of Austrade, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Tourism Australia, relevant state government departments, State Tourism Organisations (STOs), Tourism New Zealand, and representatives of Australian Tourism Export Council, National Tourism Alliance and Tourism and Transport Forum	ASCOT develops, coordinates and considers tourism policies in Australia and provides advice and makes recommendations to the Tourism Ministers. ASCOT has the collective responsibility for implementation of the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy, Tourism 2020.	Issues related to development and implementation of Tourism 2020 priorities.
13/11/2014 – 14/11/2014	Tourism Research Committee (TRC) attended by representatives from Tourism Research Australia (Austrade), Tourism Australia, Destination NSW, Tourism Victoria, Tourism Events Queensland, Tourism Western Australia, South Australian Tourism Commission, Tourism Northern Territory, Visit Canberra, Tourism Tasmania, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), NZ Ministry of Business, Innovations and Employment	Annual meeting of Commonwealth and State Tourism organisations on tourism research related issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current trends and issues effecting tourism and ability to achieve potential • National Visitor Surveys and current topics • Survey of Tourist Accommodation and funding model for the future • Collaborative projects between states • Small area data issues and regional results • New dual frame domestic collection methodology and future changes • Destination Visitor research program • Tourism Satellite Account

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

Date	Company/Organisation	Nature of meeting	Topics discussed
15/12/2014	Tourism and Visa Advisory Group , chaired by Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIPB). Attended by representatives from Austrade, Tourism Australia, Qantas Airways, Virgin Australia, Australian Hotels Association, National Tourism Alliance, Tourism and Transport Forum, Youth Hostels Australia, Tourism Queensland	Engage with the tourism industry and state governments on visa policies and programmes.	Review of Border Fees and Charges, Work and Holiday Maker Visas
22/1/2015	Representatives of Australian Regional Tourism Network, Australian Tourism Export Council, National Tourism Alliance and Tourism and Transport Forum	Consultation on Tourism 2020 Implementation Plan (2015-2020)	Content of Tourism 2020 Implementation Plan (2015-2020).
2/2/2015	Australian Tourism Roundtable (ATR) attended by representatives of Restaurant & Catering Australia, Australian Association of Convention Bureaux, Australian Duty Free Association, Australian Taxi Industry Association, Australian Tourism Export Council, Business Events Council of Australia, Ecotourism Australia, Exhibition & Events Association of Australia, International Special Events Society, National Capital Attractions Association, Queensland Tourism Industry Council, South Australian Tourism	The ATR is an industry-led forum to exchange information and form common national policy positions for the benefit of the Australian tourism industry.	The agenda focussed on five industry policy priorities: visa reforms; cross-government coordination; tax and red tape reduction; skills and labour; and tourism marketing

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

Date	Company/Organisation	Nature of meeting	Topics discussed
	Industry Council, Tourism Council WA, Star Ratings, Tourism Industry Council Tasmania, Victoria Tourism Industry Council, Meetings & Events Australia, Clubs NSW, Australian Airports Association		
6/2/2015	Tourism Ministers' Meeting forum attended by Australian, State and Territory and New Zealand Tourism Ministers, representatives of Australian Regional Tourism Network, Australian Tourism Export Council, National Tourism Alliance and Tourism and Transport Forum	Semi-annual meeting of Australian, New Zealand, State and Territory tourism ministers (with external parties attending by invitation) to discuss implementation of the national long-term tourism strategy, Tourism 2020, and tourism policy matters of mutual interest to the Australian Government, State, Territory and New Zealand Governments	See communique at http://www.austrade.gov.au/Tourism/Policies/National-long-term-strategy/Tourism-Ministers
16/2/2015	Tourism Careers Promotion Roundtable chaired by Minister for Trade and Investment. Attended by representatives from Kerzner International, Australian Federation of Travel Agents, Advanced Personnel Management, William Angliss Institute, Restaurant and Catering Australia, National Tourism Alliance, Tourism Accommodation Australia, Australian Hotels Association NSW, Accommodation Association Australia, Australian Regional Tourism Network, Service Skills Australia, Realm Precinct, Skills One	To discuss key issues affecting the attractiveness of careers in the tourism and hospitality industry, and what can be done to improve perceptions to fill labour and skills shortages.	

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

Date	Company/Organisation	Nature of meeting	Topics discussed
17/2/2015	<p>National Passenger Facilitation Committee chaired by Department of Immigration and Border Protection with membership including representatives from Brisbane Airport, Perth Airport, Sydney Airport, Adelaide Airport, Cairns Airport, Northern Territory Airports, Gold Coast Airport, Melbourne Airport Group, Australian Airports Association, Airport Coordination Australia, Board of Airline Representatives Australia, Qantas Group, Virgin Australia, Tourism and Transport Forum, and the National Tourism Alliance.</p>	<p>Quarterly meeting of Australian Government departments and industry representatives to collaboratively and holistically explore options and develop initiatives to improve international passenger facilitation and experience, while maintaining and improving border protection capability.</p>	<p>Topics for discussion at regular committee meetings may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic directions e.g. SmartGate eligibility • communication and information sharing e.g. updates from recent events/panels • major change initiatives e.g. security arrangements at airports • regulation and legislation e.g. deregulation agenda update • other facilitation items e.g. operational activities at airports

QUESTION 19

Visitor Visa Reform

- a. Has Austrade had any dealings with the Department of Immigration regarding visitor visa reform? If so please provide full details.
- b. Has Austrade performed any modelling in regards to the potential impact of visitor visa reform on tourist numbers? If so please provide copies of any findings or reports.

Answer

- a. Yes. Austrade has regular meetings with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) on a number of areas of reform including visitor visas.
- b. No.

QUESTION 20

Wanda Group

Has the Minister or Austrade met with Wanda Group or any of its representatives? If so please detail date, attendees, location and nature of the meeting.

Answer

Yes.

- A senior representative from the Wanda Group attended a tourism investment roundtable in Shanghai on 10 April 2014 as part of Australia Week in China (AWIC) hosted by the Minister for Trade and Investment. Five state representatives and the former ACT Chief Minister participated in the roundtable and delivered presentations showcasing tourism investment opportunities in their respective jurisdictions.
- Embassy officials including Austrade staff met with Wanda Group, including the Chairman Mr Wang, in Beijing on 10 May 2014.
- The Prime Minister, the Minister for Trade and Investment and Austrade's Senior Investment Commissioner Greater China met with a delegation from the Wanda Group, led by Mr Wang, in Canberra on 2 June 2014.
- Austrade staff, including Austrade's Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director International, also met with the delegation in Sydney on 3 June 2014.

QUESTION 21

Medical Tourism

Is Austrade aware of reports of an increase to medical tourism in Australia? Has the Minister been briefed on this issue? Does Austrade have a policy on medical tourism?

Answer

Yes, tourism data supports this. The Minister is aware of this. Austrade promotes Australian capability across its global network.

QUESTION 22

Sports Tourism

Does Austrade have a policy on sports tourism? Is Austrade working on any further partnerships with any other countries in relation to sports, arts or cultural events? If so please detail.

Answer

Austrade promotes Australian capability in delivering major sporting events and creative industries, aimed at assisting Australian firms to win international business in these sectors.

Austrade also manages the Match Australia programme in partnership with state and territory governments. Match Australia is the Australian Government's International Sports Business Programme connecting Australian businesses with global partners through major sporting events. The programme seeks to leverage Australia's hosting of major international events to proactively provide trade and investment opportunities for Australian companies. It forms part of a range of initiatives run under the Major Sporting Events Taskforce, managed by the Office for Sport.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 23

Amendments to Australian Trade Commission Act 1985

- a. Is Austrade aware of a new provision being introduced to Parliament to include domestic tourism as a function of Austrade?
- b. Why is this provision being introduced?
- c. How much time will Austrade give to domestic tourism upon the passage of this legislation?
- d. Does Austrade current involve itself with domestic tourism? If so please detail how?
- e. Does Austrade currently involve itself with any activities that are exclusively related to domestic tourism as opposed to international tourism?
- f. How is this balance expected to change as a result of this legislation?
- g. How many staff will be allocated to work on domestic tourism exclusively as a result of this change?

Answer

- a. Yes.
- b. This change ensures grant funding specifically for domestic tourism programmes can be appropriated to Austrade.
- c-f. Changes to the *Australian Trade Commission Act 1985* will not impact the work of the Tourism Division. The role of the Tourism Division is to implement *Tourism 2020* – the national long term strategy to improve the productive capacity of the industry.
- g. Not applicable.

QUESTION 24

Tourism Research Australia

Have there been any staff changes at TRA since the last estimates? If so please detail.

Answer

Yes.

- 2 staff members are on secondment from TRA.
- 1 new staff member commenced.

QUESTION 25

Tourism Staffing

- a) How many people now work in the Tourism Division of Austrade?
- b) How many worked in the Tourism Division as at 7 September 2013?
- c) Have there been any changes since last estimates? If so please detail.
- d) How many people work at Tourism Research Australia (TRA)?
- e) How many worked at TRA as at 7 September 2013?

Answer

- a. The headcount was 52 (as at 26 Feb 2015).
- b. As the Tourism Division was part of the Department of Resources Energy and Tourism, which was abolished in 2013, the exact number is not available. Records held indicate there were approximately 79 people in the Tourism Division as at September 2013.
- c. Yes.
 - 6 staff have left the division
 - 1 staff has commenced maternity leave
 - 2 staff are from Tourism Division are on secondment
 - 1 staff has returned from maternity leave
 - 2 new staff members have commenced.
- d. The headcount was 18 (as at 26 February 2015).
- e. Records held indicate there were approximately 21 people in TRA as at September 2013.

QUESTION 26

Tourism Research Advisory Board

- a. Is the board still in existence? When did it last meet (please provide date, location, time) and what is the current membership (please provide names)
- b. Has the board set the research priorities for 2015? If so please detail. If not, why not?
- c. Is climate change still a research priority for tourism? If not, why not?

Answer

- a. Yes. The Tourism Research Advisory Board last met on 26 May 2014 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Tourism Australia Board Room Level 29, 420 George St Sydney.

Officials from the following organisations are members of the Tourism Research Advisory Board (TRAB)

- Mr Tim Beresford, Executive Director, Austrade
 - Mr Spiro Kavadias, Tourism Research Australia (TRA)
 - Ms Adele Labine Romain, Tourism Australia
 - Mr Ian Ewing, Australian Bureau of Statistics
 - Mr Daniel Gschwind, Queensland Tourism Industry Council
 - Ms Dianne Smith, Victorian Tourism Industry Council
 - Vacant, Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels and Hospitality Group (JLL).
- b. The TRAB has a list of five research priorities developed prior to 2015, including Risk/Resilience/Climate Change'. These will be reviewed at its next meeting.
 - c. See b.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 27

Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Programme

- a. Please provide a copy of the guidelines agreed on by the Tourism Ministers Meeting for this program.
- b. Are public transport projects eligible under the guidelines?
- c. Is Austrade aware of comments by the Prime Minister stating "Now the Commonwealth government has a long history of funding roads. We have no history of funding urban rail and I think it's important that we stick to our knitting, and the Commonwealth's knitting when it comes to funding infrastructure is roads."? Does the Prime Minister's statement affect the eligibility of public transport projects?
- d. Please state the funding allocation for each state and territory, in total and by year.
- e. What is the definition of 'demand-driver' infrastructure? Who came up with the definition?
- f. Is there a minimum amount of a demand a project must generate in order to receive funding? What does this constitute?
- g. Will Austrade approve each project or will the assessment process be left up to the states?
- h. Has funding already been provided to the states? If not, what checkpoints must occur before funding is provided to a specific project?
- i. Are (a) local governments (b) tourism operators eligible for funding under this program?
- j. What is the program timeline? Will there be any further rounds of the program?

Answer

- a. Programme details are available at <https://www.austrade.gov.au/Tourism/Tourism-and-business/tddi>.
- b. Yes.
- c. No.
- d. TDDI funding is profiled over four years from 2014-15.

(\$ million)	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
New South Wales	2.452	2.379	2.379	2.379	9.589
Victoria	1.846	1.791	1.791	1.791	7.219
Queensland	2.011	1.951	1.951	1.951	7.864
Western Australia	1.295	1.256	1.256	1.256	5.063
South Australia	1.019	0.989	0.989	0.989	3.986
Tasmania	0.799	0.775	0.775	0.775	3.124
Australian Capital Territory	0.799	0.775	0.775	0.775	3.124
Northern Territory	0.799	0.775	0.775	0.775	3.124
Total	11.02	10.69	10.69	10.69	43.09

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

- e. Refer to (a). The definition was agreed in consultation with industry and officials from state and territory tourism organisations.
- f. No.
- g. Jurisdictions nominate projects which Austrade then consider against the relevant clauses of the Project Agreement. Final approval is given by the Minister for Trade and Investment and the relevant state or territory Minister for Tourism.
- h. All funding is subject to jurisdictions meeting performance milestones outlined in the Project Agreement.
- i. That is a decision for state and territory governments.
- j. As noted in (d), TDDI funding is profiled over four years from 2014-15.

QUESTION 28

Tourism Ministers Meetings

- a. What dates have Tourism Ministers Meetings been held since September 2013? Please provide location, time, place, attendees and agenda as well as minutes.
- b. Please provide forward schedule for meetings for remainder of 2015.
- c. Of these, how many meetings has Mr Robb attended since September 2013?

Answer

- a. Since September 2013, three Tourism Ministers' Meetings have been held:
 - 11 October 2013, 9.00am-12.30pm, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
 - 11 July 2014, 9.00am-12.30pm, the Investment Centre Victoria, Melbourne
 - 6 February 2015, 9.30am-12.30pm, NSW Trade & Investment Centre, Sydney

Communiqués from the meetings are available at
<http://www.austrade.gov.au/Tourism/Policies/National-long-term-strategy/Tourism-Ministers>.

- b. One Tourism Ministers' Meeting is planned for the remainder 2015.
- c. Three.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 29

Tasmanian Jobs and Growth Plan

- a. Given the money was announced 18 months ago, when will the money actually be delivered to projects in Tasmania?
- b. Will the fund be a competitive grants program?
- c. When will the fund be open to applications and when will the fund close to applications?
- d. Can you provide an expected timeline for the funding to flow? When does the department expect successful applicants will actually receive funding and how many jobs is the fund expected to generate?
- e. What is the assessment process for approving the successful applicants and who will make the final decisions around which projects will and won't receive funding?
- f. Are there any safeguards in place to ensure that this fund doesn't suffer from the roting which occurred under previous Liberal Government discretionary funds?
- g. What role, if any, has the State Government or the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania had in the development of the Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund?

Answer

- a. It is expected the Project Agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmania for the Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund (RTIIF) will be settled in the coming months.
- b. That is a matter for the Tasmanian Government.
- c. Refer to b.
- d. Refer to a. The number of jobs that may be supported is dependent on funded projects.
- e. Refer to b.
- f. While the premise of this question is not accepted, projects will be nominated by the Tasmanian Government and considered by Austrade. The Minister for Trade and Investment provides final approval, in consultation with the Tasmanian Minister for Tourism. The project agreement establishes how funding is allocated.
- g. The Tasmanian Government has recently established a Tourism Supply Steering Committee which is working to identify projects to be funded under RTIIF. The Tourism Industry Council Tasmania is a member of the Committee.

QUESTION 30

Public Transport

- a. What role does public transport play in the Australian tourism industry?
- b. Does Austrade have any statistics on public transport use by visitors, domestic and international? If so please provide.

Answer

- a. Public transport plays a role in dispersing tourists to destinations and attractions across Australia.
- b. Tourism data shows that 937,000 international visitors used public transport during the year ending September 2014.

QUESTION 31

Climate Change

- a. In Austrade's view, how significant a threat is climate change to Australia's tourism industry into the future?
- b. Is Austrade involved in any policy work relating to climate change and tourism? If so, please detail.
- c. What steps is Austrade taking to address the issue of climate change as it relates to Australia's tourism industry?

Answer

- a. Climate change is the portfolio responsibility of the Department of Environment.
- b. No.
- c. c. See Answer 26 b.

QUESTION 32

National Tourism Incident Response Plan (NTIRP)

- a. Is the NTIRP still in existence?
- b. When was the NTIRP last reviewed?
- c. When was the last meeting of the NTIRP Monitoring Group?
- d. How many Tourism division staff have been allocated to the management and updating of the NTIRP?
- e. What is the current NTIRP Activation Level? Has this changed since 7 September 2013?

Answer

- a. The NTIRP was renamed the National Tourism Incident Communication Plan (NTICP) in October 2011.
- b. The last NTICP review was in October 2014.
- c. The last meeting of the NTICP was on the 15 December 2014.
- d. During an NTICP activation 1-2 staff are involved in the management of the secretariat and liaison with stakeholders and the minister's office.
- e. The current NTICP activation level is Blue (Low level). Since 7 September 2013, the NTICP has been activated four times. Three out of four of these activations have been rated at the Blue (Low level).

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015
Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 33

Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT)

- a. When did ASCOT last meet?
- b. Have there been any changes to membership since the last estimates?
- c. When will the next meeting meet? Please provide forward schedule of meetings for 2015.
- d. Does ASCOT have a work plan? If so please provide full details.

Answer

- a. 24 October 2014.
- b. No.
- c. ASCOT met on 10 April 2015. Another ASCOT meeting is being planned for 2015.
- d. The Tourism 2020 Implementation Plan (2015-2020) is being developed in consultation with industry and the states and territories. The Plan will be finalised through ASCOT for endorsement by Tourism Ministers at the next Tourism Ministers' Meeting.

QUESTION 34

Tourism Major Project Facilitation Service

- a. Are any projects currently utilizing this service? If so please provide full project details for each project.
- b. How much funding is allocated to this service across the forward estimates?
- c. How many FTE staff are engaged in the provision of this service?

Answer

- a. Yes. Five projects in Queensland are utilising the service, including an aquarium, integrated tourism and residential projects and resorts.
- b. There is no specific allocation.
- c. Less than one full time equivalent staff member.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 35

Approved Destination Status

- a. How many inbound tour operators (ITOs) and tour guides are registered with ADS?
- b. How many random checks of ADS did Austrade or the relevant authority conduct in 2014?
- c. Of these, how many were found to be in breach of the relevant codes of conduct? What was the nature of the breaches? Please detail separately for each breach.
- d. How many ‘mystery shoppers’ were engaged as part of the monitoring process in 2014 and were any breaches detected?
- e. Did any tour guides have their ADS approval suspended or revoked since 7 September 2013? In what circumstances did each occur?

Answer

- a. 69 approved Inbound Tourism Operators and 1,526 approved tour guides.
- b. 371.
- c. 76 compliance breaches were detected.
 - The majority of the compliance breaches related to clauses 18.1, 14.1 (e) and 17.2 (a) of the Code.
 - Clause 18.1 requires ITOs to display a sign on the coach or bus stating that the tour is an ADS tour.
 - Clause 14.1 (e) requires ITOs to list a visit to a competitive shopping area on the itinerary prior to listing a visit to a commission linked shopping outlet.
 - Clause 17.2 (a) requires tour guides to be fluent in both English and Chinese (in these cases tour guides were unable to communicate in English).

28 fundamental breaches were detected.

- The majority of these related to clause 19.3 of the code that requires ITOs to ensure a tour group is taken to a competitive shopping area prior to a visit to a commission linked shopping outlet.

A fundamental breach is defined as a breach that is likely to result in suspension or revocation of ADS approval, a compliance breach is any other breach.

- d. Two mystery shoppers were engaged in 2014. A total of 10 breaches were detected.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

- e. There were no tour guide suspensions or revocations because they were not covered by the ADS code or registered with ADS. Tour guides were first officially registered with ADS as of 19 January 2015.

QUESTION 36

Tourism Directions Conference – State of the Industry Report

When will the next State of the Industry report be published?

Answer

The *State of the Industry 2015* report is scheduled to be released in October 2015.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015
Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 37

Restaurant Australia

Is Austrade aware of any government-funded marketing campaigns in which venues owned or part owned by Mr Robb feature. If so please detail.

Answer

This has been previously dealt with.

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Additional Estimates 2014–15; February 2015

Questions on Notice from **Senator Brown** to Austrade

QUESTION 38

Board appointments

For all appointments to boards, authorities and advisory committees made by the Minister for Trade personally or by a delegate or agent of the Minister since 18 September 2013 provide the following details:

- a. name of person appointed
- b. title of position
- c. name of board, authority or advisory committee
- d. appointment start date
- e. appointment expiry date
- f. selection process
- g. remuneration.

Answer

Appointments made by The Hon Andrew Robb AO MP Minister for Trade and Investment since 18 September 2013

- a. There have been three board appointments made by the Hon Andrew Robb AO MP Minister for Trade and Investment since 18 September 2013, they include:
 - Mr Andrew Fairley (VIC)
 - Ms Anna Guillan (NSW)
 - Mr Tony South (NSW).
- b. Member of the Board of Directors of Tourism Australia.
- c. Tourism Australia.
- d. 1 July 2014 for all three.
- e. 30 June 2017 (inclusive) for all three.
- f. The Minister for Trade and Investment is responsible for the appointment of persons to the Tourism Australia Board and in relation to appointments in 2014, was required to seek written approval of the appointments from the Prime Minister or at the Prime Minister's discretion to defer the decision to Cabinet.
- g. The Remuneration Tribunal (Determination 2014/08) has determined remuneration for the part-time position of Member of the Board of Directors at \$47,360 per annum which is applicable to the three Board of Directors of Tourism Australia Members.