

2016-17 Budget Estimates Hearing

Questions on Notice - Austrade

QoN Number	Subject
1	2016-17 Budget Estimates - Tehran Post
2	2016-17 Budget Estimates - Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure (TDDI) Program
3	2016-17 Budget Estimates - Backpacker Tax Review

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017
Spoken Questions on Notice from **Wong, Penny** to Austrade

Question Number 1

2016-17 Budget Estimates - Tehran Post
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SENATOR WONG asked:

(a) Senator WONG: How long has it been since we had an Austrade office in Tehran? Have we ever had one before?

Mr O'Meara: We have in the past. I will have to defer to someone else.

(b) Senator WONG: Is it intended that it be opened ... this coming financial year or this calendar year? ...

Mr O'Meara: It will be next financial year. I think it will probably be before December, but I would have to take the exact date on notice.

Answer

(a) Austrade had an office in Tehran from 1968 until November 2010.

(b) Austrade's office in Tehran re-opened in September 2016.

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Spoken Questions on Notice from **Brown, Carol** to Austrade

Question Number 2

2016-17 Budget Estimates - Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure (TDDI) Program
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SENATOR BROWN asked:

(a) Senator CAROL BROWN: How many [TDDI projects] did you say were going to have final payments made this month?

Mr Boyer: I do not have that level of detail, I am sorry. A number of them will have, because there will be the final payment of the financial year.

(b) Senator CAROL BROWN: How many [TDDI] projects have been approved but not announced?

Mr Boyer: I do not have that level of detail. I know that we have got commitments into 2016-17 for some projects. I am not sure how many of them have been announced or not announced. I can take the numbers on notice but not the announcements, of course.

(c) Senator CAROL BROWN: Do you know how much the [TDDI] projects were that have been approved but not announced?

Senator McGrath: We can take that on notice.

Mr Boyer: I do not have that level of detail.

(d) Senator CAROL BROWN: ... Austrade have said that the project details will be publically available on the Treasury website. Are they available on the Treasury website—the Federal Financial Relations website? ... I think I might know what the website address is, but if you could take that on notice, because I am having difficulty finding it.

Answer

(a) Six had final payments made.

(b) Once Ministers approve project schedules for jurisdictions, the agreed practice with Treasury is that these project schedules are placed on the National Partnerships Agreements page on the Treasury website (see below) and are publicly available.

(c) Nil.

(d) TDDI schedules which include project details are available at the following website <http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/content/npa/other.aspx>.

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Spoken Questions on Notice from **Brown, Carol** to Austrade

Question Number 3

2016-17 Budget Estimates - Backpacker Tax Review

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SENATOR BROWN asked:

(a) Senator CAROL BROWN: In terms of your consultation [with industry groups on the backpacker tax review], can you give me a list of who, outside the department, you actually consulted with?

Mr Gosper: We undertook two industry consultations with tourism and agriculture stakeholders on 21 March and 19 April, respectively, and an interdepartmental committee involving 12 agencies.

Senator CAROL BROWN: Who were people invited to those?

Mr Gosper: I do not have that detail here. We can take that on notice and provide[d] it to you.

(b) Senator CAROL BROWN: When the minister announced the review back in March, he said that they were looking at a different approach in terms of the backpacker tax ... Did the review recommend a solution? ... Mr Gosper?

Mr Gosper: The review was to look at options for alternative budget neutral arrangements to the tax treatment, and we have given advice to government.

Senator CAROL BROWN: You have provided options?

Mr Gosper: We have given advice to government.

Senator CAROL BROWN: Obviously they did not like those options. So you cannot tell me when this issue may be fixed then, other than that the Treasurer—I think it was the Treasurer—announced a delay in the current policy.

Senator McGrath: I am not able to give you a fixed time frame ... Why don't you take it on notice?

Mr Gosper: Okay.

Answer

- (a) (i) Attendees for the two industry Roundtables with tourism and agriculture, coordinated and run by Ministerial Offices, were:

Roundtable 21 March 2016

National Farmers' Federation
Apple and Pear Australia
AUSVEG
Growcom
Queensland Farmers' Federation
Thomas Foods International
NT Farmers
Cotton Australia
WA Farmers
Victorian Farmers' Federation
Australian Meat Industry Council
NSW Farmers' Federation
Australian Dairy Farmers Limited
Tourism and Transport Forum

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Australian Federation of Travel Agents
Australian Tourism Export Council
Accommodation Association of Australia
Tourism Accommodation Australia
Restaurant and Catering Australia
Business Events Council of Australia
Queensland Tourism Industry Council (representing all State and Territory Tourism Industry Councils)
Australian Regional Tourism Network

Roundtable 19 April 2016

Tourism and Transport Forum
Restaurant and Catering Australia
Australian Tourism Export Council
Australian Regional Tourism Network
National Farmers' Federation
Voice of Horticulture
AUSVEG
Growcom
Thomas Foods International
Australian Meat Industry Council
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(ii) The 12 agencies represented at the interdepartmental committee, coordinated by Austrade, on 23 March 2016 were:

Austrade, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australian Tax Office, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Department of Employment, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, The Treasury, Tourism Australia.

- (b) On 15 August 2016, the Deputy Prime Minister announced a review and public consultation on the Working Holiday Maker visa program. The results of the review will take the form of a government announcement towards the end of the year, ahead of any changes being implemented from 1 January 2017.