

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

Question No: 34
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: Coal export from Ports in the Great Barrier Reef
Hansard Page: 74
Question Date: 24 February 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Pratt asked:

Senator PRATT: How much do both of these industries contribute to the economy in terms of taxes and royalties? And what is the likely life span of both the coal and the tourism industries?

Dr Dripps : We will have to take all of those questions on notice.

Dr de Brouwer: Some of those questions are probably better directed at the Department of Industry. We are not well placed to make a long-term call about the nature of tourism or the coal industry in Australia. That is not really our remit.

Senator Birmingham: Dr Dripps has taken on notice that if there is information relevant and if the department has it then it can be provided. It is likely, of course, to be information that is being provided by others, because this is a new Department of the Environment; it is not an economic modelling agency. It simply would have—

Senator PRATT: Yes, but nevertheless, as regulators and custodians, you have to balance out the environmental and the economic, which is why you clearly have access to at least some of this information.

Senator Birmingham: And obviously what is available and relevant to the questions you have asked will be provided.

Answer:

It is not within the Department of the Environment's remit to advise on taxes and royalties within the tourism and coal export industries or to advise the likely life span of these industries. These questions would more appropriately be answered by:

Tourism

- Queensland's Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games: <http://www.dtesb.qld.gov.au/>

Industry

- Australian Government Department of Industry:
<http://www.industry.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>
- Queensland Government Department of Natural Resources and Mines:
<http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/>

For individual projects, information on relevant economic and social matters is considered as part of the assessment process.