

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2004-2005, 16 February 2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome 1, Output 1.2
TOPIC: MINISTERIAL COUNCILS AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES IN TOURISM SECTOR
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION No.54
(Written QON)

Senator O'Brien asked:

What ministerial councils and other consultative committees (including officials meetings) exist in the tourism sector? When did these groups last meet? Can you provide dates for planned meetings of these groups for this year?

ANSWER

The Industry Implementation Advisory Group (IIAG)

The IIAG, chaired by the Minister for Small Business and Tourism and involving the peak tourism industry associations, was established to advise on implementation of the White Paper. The Group last met on 25 February 2005 and is next scheduled to meet on 4 May 2005. Meetings will be held quarterly for the remainder of 2005.

The Tourism Ministers' Council (TMC)

The TMC comprises the tourism Ministers of the Australian, State, Territory and New Zealand Governments. It meets once a year with the next meeting scheduled for July 2005. TMC last met on 30 July 2004.

The Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT)

ASCOT is the senior officials' committee supporting TMC. Representatives of the Australian, State and Territory governments, and the New Zealand Tourist Commission sit on ASCOT. Norfolk Island and Papua New Guinea have observer status. ASCOT meets twice a year. The first meeting for the current year was held on 11 March 2005 and the next meeting is expected to be held in July 2005.

Tourism Research Committee

The Tourism Research Committee comprises officials of the Australian Government and states and territories. It last met on 25 November 2004. The next meeting is scheduled for 14-15 April 2005.

Australian Government Interdepartmental Committee on Tourism (IDC)

The IDC was established to drive implementation of cross portfolio Tourism White Paper initiatives. The IDC last met in March 2004. It is next scheduled to meet in mid-2005.

National Tourism and Aviation Advisory Committee (NTAAC)

NTAAC provides high level advice to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and the Department of Transport and Regional Services on matters of mutual interest to the tourism and transport industries. NTAAC first met on 2 December 2004 and is scheduled to meet on 15 April 2005.

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Australian Travel Industry Consultative Committee (ATICC)

The ATICC was established to develop a closer working relationship with the Australian Federation of Travel Agents. The inaugural ATICC meeting was held on 20 July 2004 in Canberra. A date has yet to be determined for the next meeting.

The National Tourism Investment Strategy Consultative Group (NTISCG)

The NTISCG will assist the Minister for Small Business and Tourism in developing the National Tourism Investment Strategy before the end of the year. It is expected to meet for the first time on 30 March 2005.

The Emerging Markets Strategy Consultative Group (EMSCG)

The EMSCG will assist in the development of the Emerging Markets Strategy by August 2005. The Group will consist of experts in the Chinese and Indian markets and the first meeting is proposed for March 2005.

Tourism and Hospitality Industry Advisory Committee (THIAC)

The THIAC is a sub-committee appointed by the Service Industries Skills Council, which looks at skills across the services sector. It considers tourism and hospitality skills issues and last met on 16 February 2005. Meetings are planned to be held quarterly during 2005.

Fraser Island Ministerial Council (FIMC)

The FIMC was established in 1996. Its functions and objectives are to coordinate policy and funding for the management of the Fraser Island World Heritage Area between Australian and Queensland Governments. The Council last met on 8 June 2001.

Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council (GBRMC)

The GBRMC was established in 1979 to coordinate policy between the Australian and Queensland Governments at the ministerial level. The council meets annually, or as required, and last met on 13 June 2003.

Northern Territory World Heritage Ministerial Council

The Northern Territory World Heritage Ministerial Council was established in 1998 to coordinate policy between the Northern Territory and Australian Governments on matters relating to Northern Territory World Heritage properties. The Council last met in June 2004.

Wet Tropics Ministerial Council

The Wet Tropics Ministerial Council was established in 1990. Its functions include coordination of policy and funding for Wet Tropics management between the Australian and Queensland Governments, and approval of annual and other programs for implementing approved management plans. The Council meets annually, or as required. The Council last met on 12 June 2003.

Tourism and Protected Area Forum (Officials)

The Tourism and Protected Area Forum consists of operational managers of tourism and protected areas agencies. It meets annually but most business is handled out of session as required. The Forum last met on 18 January 2005.

The Indigenous Tourism Leadership Group

The Indigenous Tourism Leadership Group consists of influential leaders from the tourism and financial sectors, Indigenous tourism operators and Australian Government representative. It provides high level advice on Indigenous tourism issues. The Group last met on 20 December 2004 and will next meet (if required) in the first half of 2005.

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World Tourism Organization (WTO)

The WTO General Assembly meets every two years at different locations. Australia was represented as an observer by Embassy officials at the last General Assembly in China in 2003. The next General Assembly will be held in Senegal in late 2005. Ad hoc Ministerial meetings are convened each year in different locations on specific subject areas.

APEC Tourism Ministers' Meeting

APEC Tourism Ministers' meetings oversee the development and implementation of the APEC Tourism Charter. Ministers meet every two years. The last meeting was held in Chile in October 2004. The next meeting is scheduled for late 2006 in Vietnam.

Commonwealth Tourism Ministers' Meetings

These meetings provide a platform for increasing cooperation on tourism issues among member states. The first meeting was held in March 2004 in Malaysia. The next meeting will be held in Nigeria in 2005 – exact dates have yet to be agreed.

Singapore-Australia Joint Tourism Council (SAJTC)

The Council was formally established in May 2004. It aims to identify mutually beneficial cooperative projects in the areas of marketing and promotion, aviation, information sharing, and research. The inaugural meeting will be held in Singapore in the first half of 2005.

Other Consultative Mechanisms

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources is also involved in other tourism related committees as required. These include:

- the Inbound Compliance Taskforce;
- the Joint Monitoring Group for Approved Destination Status; and
- the Restaurant and Catering Industry Working Group.