

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2008-09

2 June 2008

Question: **BR-21**
Topic: **Impact of Efficiency Dividend**
Proof Hansard Page: **E129**

Senator BUSHBY asked: I will move on. I think we have probably answered my next question in the course of that, which was to do with an undertaking given by you, Mr Buckley, to Senator Birmingham at the last estimates that hopefully you would be able to explain how the efficiency dividends will play out, but we are not quite there yet.

Mr Buckley—No, we are not.

Senator BUSHBY—When do you expect to be in a position to know?

Mr Buckley—The board next meets on 16 June.

Senator BUSHBY—Will you be finalising it at that point?

Mr Buckley—That would be the aim.

Senator BUSHBY—Will you be able to take those questions on notice, subject to the outcome of that board meeting?

Senator Sherry—Yes, we will take those on notice, Senator.

Answer:

Tourism Australia's appropriation for 2008-09 is \$135.6 million, after the application of the efficiency dividend (\$2.76 million). This compares with an appropriation of \$135.7 million following the application of the 2007/08 efficiency dividend.

Tourism Australia's appropriation in 2008/09 will be supplemented by an expected \$30.6 million in revenue, representing an increase of \$2 million over 2007-08. Much of this revenue will come from industry partners and cost recovery.

Tourism Australia plans to slightly increase its spending on domestic and international marketing in 2008/09 to \$78.945 million, compared with \$78.687 million in 2007/08.

Tourism Australia has projected an average staffing level of 215 FTE during 2008/09, compared to 233 FTE in 2007/08. Staffing level reductions have been achieved by removing duplicated roles, pursuing opportunities for outsourcing and eliminating roles not critical to operational effectiveness. These actions follow a review of staffing levels by Tourism Australia during 2007.