

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2008-09

2 June 2008

Question: BR-28
Topic: Tourism Australia Board
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Senator Ian Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is the board of Tourism Australia at full complement at the moment?

Mr Buckley—Yes, it is.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—When do the terms of the board members conclude?

Mr Buckley—There are four board member terms up at 30 June 2008.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—This year. When will those appointments be announced?

Senator Sherry—I do not know. I will have to take it on notice.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is there a process for appointment of board members? Is the Minister required to consult with anyone?

Senator Sherry—I can advise that four of the members' terms expire on 30 June 2008. The board members will be appointed by the Minister in coming months in line with requirements of the Tourism Australia Act and the Commonwealth Agencies and Companies Act of 1997. Then it goes on and says three board membership terms expire on 30 June 2008. I will have to check out the difference between four and three. It is obviously one, but I am not sure why we have a differing number. New board members or existing members will be reappointed by the Minister in coming months, and the process is managed by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. The Minister must be satisfied board appointees have a high-level expertise in a number of tourism or management related areas as specified in the Tourism Australia Act 2004, for example, international tourism or corporate governance. An appointed member holds office for the period specified in the instrument of appointment—not to exceed three years. It is four by three-year memberships.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—What I am really interested in is whether the Minister is required by law to consult and, if not, who will he be consulting with—

Senator Sherry—The process I have outlined is what I have been briefed on. If there are further requirements, I will take it on notice and come back to you.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you. There has been some comment in the coalface of the industry over recent years that people appointed tend not to be people at the coalface but wholesalers. Whether that is true or not I do not account for, but perhaps you could ask the Minister whether he would consider appointing people who have actual hands-on coalface experience?

Answer: The Minister for Tourism, the Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP, made the announcement on 27 June 2008 (attached).

The selection of Tourism Australia Board members is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Tourism Australia Act (2004)*, with the aim of appointing a Board with high level expertise in a range of relevant areas.