

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2008-09
23 October 2008

Question: SR-5
Topic: Impact of the global financial crisis on the tourism industry
Proof Hansard Page: E92

Senator Ronaldson asked:

Senator RONALDSON—Minister, will you be making a statement in relation to the likely outcome for the tourism industry now that you have had this advice?

Senator Carr—I think I should correct you. I am here representing the minister.

Senator RONALDSON—Will the government be making a statement to the tourism industry?

Senator Carr—I will take that on notice.

Senator RONALDSON—Given that there has been advice—and there are positives, which is obviously good news—that there are negatives, is it not reasonable for the industry to be aware of the expert advice that the government has been given in relation to this matter?

Senator Carr—I will take that matter on notice and discuss the matter with the minister.

Answer:

As Minister for Tourism, I will not be making a specific statement at this stage. However, I and my Department continue to engage with the industry on the impact of the crisis and share information, including through the development of the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy.

Notwithstanding the improved price competitiveness brought about by the depreciation of the Australian dollar, the industry faces significant challenges over the short to medium term as a result of the global financial crisis, given the discretionary nature of tourism expenditure and its relationship with consumer confidence. The Government, through the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy, is committed to establishing a strategic framework that enables the industry to be positioned more effectively to meet the broad range of challenges it will face over the longer term.