

Austrade QON Index – Budget Estimates 2020-21

Portfolio Question No	Senator	Broad Topic	Question Text	Written Hansard	Proof Hansard Page
1	Bridget McKenzie	Market diversification - red meat processing industry	<p>Senator McKENZIE: ... The red meat processing industry was asked to diversify into China many years ago by government and is now being asked to diversify out of China. Other than FTAs, what specific assistance is DFAT and Austrade providing to individual companies, or indeed their peak council, to manage this market diversification request? ... I think the frustration from the industry is they get very clear signals from government at one end—that you're going to have to look to the north, go to China, diversify to China—and now we're asking them to diversify elsewhere. As you would understand better than I do, developing long-term, valuable relationships with importers in these countries is not easy; it's highly competitive. This is your daily task. The question from industry is about tangible assistance from Austrade and DFAT to assist with diversification within, specifically, the red meat industry.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Senator McKenzie, the officials here may wish to add, and it would probably be useful for us to take it on notice for both DFAT and Austrade to provide some detail across both on the partnerships that Austrade will have with Meat and Livestock Australia in particular.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: And AMIC in particular as the peak council.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: And AMIC, indeed. I think it is worth noting in terms of the red meat—</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Sorry, Minister. It's not the producers of meat and livestock; it's the actual processors and the exporters.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Yes ... I would encourage all of our producers, where they can, to expand into other markets, and some of the processors have told me they've seen strong growth in the US this year, and part of the IFAM support and so on has been crucial to maintaining that. So I think we do need to look at those, but, in terms of some of the details of the relationships with AMIC or individual processors, that's something—unless officials want to add—that Austrade are probably going to be best placed to answer.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: That's right. This isn't urgent, so on notice is fine.</p>	Hansard	104-105

2	Penny Wong	Projects or investment arrangements facilitated by the Kolkata Consulate	<p>Senator WONG: I'm going to move to India now, and the Varghese report. In June 2020 DFAT outlined what were described as early outcomes—I think that was a misnomer—for implementing the government's response to the India Economic Strategy recommendations. I think at that point only one of the top 20 priority recommendations had been implemented, which was for a new consulate-general in Kolkata. I want to know a little bit about what work the consulate-general has undertaken in relation to Australian investment in India's eastern states.</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: The Kolkata consulate was opened in March 2019. Since then they have done considerable work, even under the admittedly difficult circumstances over the last few months, in increasing their contacts. For instance, they took part in the Australia India Business Exchange in February this year.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Are there any projects or investment arrangements that you can identify as the consulate having helped facilitate since it was opened?</p> <p>Mr Wiblin: Not at the moment. I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Adamson: I'm sure you're aware, but India is essentially in lockdown and our consulates have had very limited ability throughout COVID to do the sorts of things you're talking about. But they do have a focus. Kolkata has a focus on METS. It may be that our Austrade colleagues, who are hopefully listening to this, are able to advise us, because they had an Austrade officer in Kolkata before we established a consulate-general. That was a key focus of their attention.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Obviously that was in place prior to COVID. If there's something you can give us on notice, that would be good.</p>	Hansard	108-109
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3	Tim Ayres	Diversification strategy	<p>Senator AYRES: ... Can I ask a couple of questions about trade diversification ... Has the department been tasked with a specific mission to diversify export markets?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: The department and, again, Austrade as our export and promotion agency are definitely working on strategies and support in the various markets that they are represented in and with the various industries we work with.</p> <p>Dr Gordon: We have been doing some analysis of where the growth markets are coming through in the rest of the world. ... The work we've done so far has been looking at what are the characteristics to look at in the market. So we've done the preliminary work to identify how we'd go about looking for where the growth opportunities are and identifying those characteristics.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: It sounds like that work's at an early stage. Would you be able on notice to give the committee a bit of a scope for what that work involves?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: There are two observations I'll make quickly here. One is that government facilitates trade and business undertakes trade. Through our FTA negotiations and through other things, we, hopefully, lower the barriers to trade and allow business to walk through open doors. However, businesses choose with whom they trade and where they sell their goods; government doesn't make that decision for them. Certainly, we are pursuing strategies to try to increase the range of choices available to businesses. Whether they choose to turn away from one large market into another market is still a business decision, as I have acknowledged publicly. I think some of the risk factors have changed this year in relation to trade with China because of some of the regulatory decisions, and otherwise, that have heightened risk for trade there. In terms of then the specific efforts to help in those other countries, as we were reflecting on with Senator McKenzie before, there are certainly a range of practical steps in certain targeted industries and Austrade, especially in providing direct help to Australian businesses and their partners. I can, in addition to what Dr Gordon has taken on notice, outline a number of those actions for you, too.</p>		114-115
4	Kimberely Kitching	Nation Brand	<p>Senator KITCHING: There was \$10.1 million allocated for the development of the nation brand in 2017 over the four years to 30 June 2021. On notice, could I get a full breakdown of costs? Is that possible?</p> <p>Ms Ralston: I'm very happy to provide a breakdown on notice.</p>	Hansard	117

5	Kimberely Kitching	National Brand Advisory Council	<p>Senator KITCHING: Could you take on notice the selection process for board members? Is that possible?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We can take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	118
6	Don Farrell	COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund	<p>Senator FARRELL: ... Can I ask some questions about the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund, and the date that that was announced.</p> <p>Ms Ralston: I think that was announced on 12 March.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: On what date were stakeholders invited to apply to the fund?</p> <p>Ms Ralston: The fund is actually administered by the department of infrastructure, so I probably would have to defer to the department of infrastructure.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Now it is.</p> <p>Ms Ralston: Right, yes.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: But, when it was first launched, it was this department, was it not?</p> <p>Ms Ralston: The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade had the lead responsibility for that piece of work, not Austrade itself. We were part of some of the conversations but we won't administering the fund. As I don't have the answers on those, we could—</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: You could get them for me, could you?</p> <p>Ms Ralston: Sure.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Alright. Good on you.</p> <p>Mr Beresford: Through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Yes. Do you know when the guidelines were publicly available?</p> <p>Ms Ralston: I'm sorry, I don't have that information with me. It was with the department.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: You can find that out.</p> <p>Ms Ralston: Yes.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Do we know what date it was decided that the fund would no longer be in this area's responsibility but be administered by the Deputy Prime Minister?</p> <p>Ms Ralston: I'm sorry—</p> <p>Mr Beresford: We'll take that on notice. I think this is best left to being answered through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p>	Hansard	123

7	Don Farrell	Tourism industry support measures funded through the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund	<p>[In relation to tourism industry support measures funded through the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund.]</p> <p>Mr Beresford: Do you want to hear the list? Or do you want us to take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: No, I'd love to hear it.</p> <p>Mr Beresford: So: direct tourism support to zoos and aquariums, \$94.6 million; business events, \$50 million; recovery for regional tourism, which the minister has already mentioned, \$50 million; Commonwealth national park support for tourism fee waivers, \$11 million; temporary waiver of environmental management charges for the Barrier Reef, \$8.1 million; renewing Reef HQ Aquarium, \$5 million; Great Barrier Reef tourism activities, \$3.2 million; sustaining tourism at Australia's iconic World and National Heritage sites, \$33.5 million. They're directly related to tourism. If you'd like me to continue, there's a whole bunch that are indirectly related to tourism but have huge impacts on the tourism sector—obviously from infrastructure the Regional Recovery Partnerships. It's broader than tourism, but it is also looking at tourism infrastructure. Of our own EMDG funding that I outlined at the start, of that \$49.8 million, there is a share that goes to tourism. We've been very conservative and said that it's about 12 per cent of that—so, \$5.7 million.</p> <p>CHAIR: I'm sure Senator Farrell wants this on notice.</p> <p>Mr Beresford: I can take it on notice, Chair, if you'd like.</p>	Hansard	124-125
8	Don Farrell	Recovery for Regional Tourism Program - Great Ocean Road	<p>Senator FARRELL: How can I satisfy myself that there hasn't been a political party bias in the Great Ocean Road missing out on funding [under the Recovery for Regional Tourism Program]? What can I go to on your website? Where can I look this up if you say it's all publicly listed information?</p> <p>Ms Ralston: We can provide you with access that links to the data that's available.</p>	Hansard	127
9	Don Farrell	Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grant Program	<p>[In relation to grants awarded under the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants Program.]</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Are those that are successful publicly available?</p> <p>Ms Ralston: I think they are. I might just ask Mr Bilbie whether they are actually on our websites or publicly available.</p> <p>Mr Bilbie: Yes, they're published on the grants hub. We can certainly provide on notice all the instances of applications received and paid.</p>	Hansard	128

10	Don Farrell	Investment priorities	<p>[In relation to the Governments priorities for investment.]</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: So, if it's not beds, what are you going to be looking at?</p> <p>Mr Beresford: Under Minister Birmingham, the minister for investment, we've absolutely turned our attention to a focus around the government's priorities on investment, be they in new energy or be they in a circular economy. I'm very happy to take on notice the other priorities, if you would like.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Yes, thank you.</p>	Hansard	129
11	Tim Ayres	Engagement of Egon Zehnder in relation to Austrade CEO and Austrade Deputy CEO recruitment	<p>Senator AYRES: ... I just want to ask a few questions about the appointment process for a new CEO ... Can you tell me—I assume on notice—what Egon Zehnder is being paid for the contract?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I can tell you that, and I'll also invite DFAT to outline the selection process that they went through. I can flag in that selection process that Egon Zehnder was already doing a piece of recruitment work for Austrade and so I do recall Secretary Adamson's briefing me about the selection and that they determined that Egon Zehnder presented clearly a strong and competitive bid to do the Austrade CEO work, but their pre-existing knowledge was also seen as a benefit in terms of the fact that they were already doing some work with Austrade ... They were undertaking work in relation to the deputy CEO position that Mr Ralston is acting in—the vacant position, as against the one that Mr Beresford substantively fills.</p> <p>Senator AYRES: ... The tender documents show that Egon Zehnder was paid \$162,800 for the deputy CEO search. Can you explain why that figure is so high? Can anyone explain why that figure is so high? ... Can you check that the information I've been provided about the amount that was paid for the deputy CEO search is correct. Also, you'd better tell me what the deputy CEO of Austrade is paid.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We shall provide on notice all of the contract details and processes related to the deputy CEO search and the CEO search, which may be a joined-up effort between DFAT and Austrade. I suspect that Austrade pays the bill—</p> <p>Senator AYRES: ... I want to know the basis on which the limited tender arrangements were struck to select Egon Zehnder for the second CEO process ... The way that's expressed there says there were technical reasons.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Sure. We'll take it on notice in terms of the decisions that DFAT made in that regard. A limited tender is not unusual in these sorts of things. Government has panels that it selects from.</p>	Hansard	129-130

12	Don Farrell	Tourism 2020 target for rooms	<p>Mr Beresford: Can I just finalise the Tourism 2020 target for rooms. It was 20,000 rooms, Senator Farrell, and we delivered 39,000 rooms as part of the forecast. That's why we brought it to a close with TA.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Can you break that down by state.</p> <p>Mr Beresford: Sure. I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	130
13	Bridget McKenzie	Working from home arrangements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the number of public servants working from home for each month from the Department [since the beginning of the pandemic]?</li> <li>2. How has the Department measured increased, static or declining productivity and what are the conclusions from that measure?</li> <li>3. What is the number of sick days from the Department with a work-from-home workforce for each month of the lockdown and the corresponding sick days for the corresponding months in 2019?</li> </ol>	Written	
14	Helen Polley	National Tourism Icons Package	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much has been spent on the National Tourism Icon's Package to date? What are the forward estimates of spending for the following financial years until the project's completion? Does this equate to the \$50 million originally promised? If not, why not?</li> <li>2. Has any funding under the Package been spent on improving Freycinet already? If yes, how much?</li> <li>3. How will the \$6.9 million being spent to improve Freycinet be allocated? When will the funding become available?</li> <li>4. As a result of the devastating impact of the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism, will there be a plan to extend this funding beyond 2021-22? This is given the immense benefit of Tourism to our regions.</li> </ol>	Written	

15	Don Farrell	COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund	<p>With regards to the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund can the department please provide the following</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What date stakeholders were invited to apply to the fund</li> <li>b. What date the guidelines were made publicly available</li> <li>c. What date the first announcements were made under the fund</li> <li>d. What involvement Austrade has with the fund</li> <li>e. Has Austrade many any recommendations to the fund? If yes, please provide as much detail as possible and what the outcomes were</li> <li>f. Have you received any funding requests directly from stakeholders? If yes, what action did you take</li> <li>g. Did Austade recommend any proposals to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment? If yes, how and what was the outcome?</li> <li>h. Did Austrade receive any complaints about the move of this fund out of Austrade? If yes, what action did you take?</li> </ol>	Written
16	Don Farrell	Zoos and Aquarium Funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did Austrade receive any complaints from zoos or aquariums about not being eligible for funding under the Zoos and Aquarium program? If yes, what action did you take? Was any consideration given to expanding the criteria given the underspend?</li> <li>2. How were the guidelines for this fund determined?</li> <li>3. Did the Department express any concerns, in writing or verbally, to the Minister about the guidelines being too rigid?</li> <li>4. Did the Department express any concerns either in writing or in person about the amount of funding being too much?</li> <li>5. Did the Department make suggestions to the Minister on ways to improve the program? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If yes; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What were these?</li> <li>2. Were they agreed to?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Did the Department make a written or verbal briefing to the Minister on the underspend?</li> <li>7. Has the Department made any suggestions to the Minister either in writing or in person about what could be done with the underspend?</li> </ol>	Written

17	Don Farrell	Regional Tourism Recovery Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who will be the decision-maker for the funding?</li> <li>2. How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body?</li> <li>3. Can the Department explain the methodology used to determine the nine regions receiving funding through the Regional Tourism Recovery Program?</li> <li>4. Can you provide a copy of this methodology and how it was applied?</li> <li>5. What support will be provided to regions which missed out on this funding?</li> <li>6. Did the regions receive a score or rating of some sort to determine the final nine regions? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Yes; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. What was the score out of?</li> <li>ii. Can you provide the score for each region which was funded?</li> <li>iii. What was the score of the tenth region which wasn't funded?</li> <li>iv. And the 11th?</li> <li>v. And the 12th?</li> <li>vi. Was a list prepared and can you provide this?</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. No; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Without a rating, how can you be confident these are the most impacted regions?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>7. How were the amounts allocated to each area determined?</li> <li>8. What consultation did the department have with peak tourism bodies prior to the announcement?</li> <li>9. What is the Department's timeline for when projects will begin work?</li> <li>10. What is the Departments timeline for delivery of the final projects?</li> <li>11. In the information provided about the program it mentions there being opportunities for matched funding, what does this mean? Will matched funding be required for projects?</li> <li>12. Please provide an update on each of the nine regions and the stage it is up to including – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If consultation has begun, who is involved, how is it being conducted and when will it conclude.</li> <li>b. If consultation hasn't begun, when will it begin and who will be invited?</li> </ol> </li> <li>13. What will happen if the program has an underspend?</li> <li>14. Has Austrade received any feedback from regions who were ineligible? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If yes, how was it received, who was it from and what action was taken?</li> </ol> </li> <li>15. Are there any grant programs which Austrade administer that was provided with additional</li> </ol>	Written
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18	Don Farrell	Business Events Grants Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the timeline for the rollout of the Business Events Grants?</li> <li>2. When will the guidelines be finalised?</li> <li>3. Who is developing the guidelines?</li> <li>4. Who has final sign off on the guidelines?</li> <li>5. Can you clarify if the intent of funding is to support participants versus funding the organisers of the events?</li> <li>6. Was this program a result of an application for funding to the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund by stakeholders?</li> <li>7. Can the Department advise how the list of pre-approved events are being determined? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What role does the Minister play in this process?</li> <li>b. Has the list been finalised?</li> <li>c. Yes; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. How many events are there?</li> <li>ii. Can you provide the list including the amount available for the fund and the geographic location of the event?</li> <li>iii. What is the process for events which have been deemed ineligible but believe they should have been included in the program?</li> <li>iv. Has there been any feedback from stakeholders on the list?</li> </ol> </li> <li>d. No; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. What is the timeline for delivery?</li> <li>ii. What is the process for events if they are deemed ineligible but believe they should have been included in the program?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>8. What will happen if an event is arranged after this list is prepared that would have been appropriate for funding under this program? Will other support be available?</li> <li>9. Have you received any feedback that the grant program doesn't target the sector effectively? If yes, what action have you taken as a result?</li> <li>10. How does this program interact with the Bidfund Program?</li> <li>11. Was any consideration given to increasing the funding available through Bidfund?</li> <li>12. With regards to Bidfund, when is the program due to end? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Has all the funding been expended? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Will more funding be made available?</li> <li>ii. Will the program be extended?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written
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19	Don Farrell	Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grant Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many applications has the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grant Program received over the life of the program?</li> <li>2. How many applications did you receive in the month of September 2020?</li> <li>3. Can you provide a breakdown of how many applications you have received each month the program has been open and what amounts they were for?</li> <li>4. How many organisations were invited to apply?</li> <li>5. Stream 2 has closed, how many applications were received through this stream? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How much funding was expended through this stream in total?</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Has there been any consideration given to expanding the organisations eligible for funding?</li> <li>7. Have you received any feedback from organisations ineligible for funding requesting the guidelines be expanded? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Yes, how many and what action was taken?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written
20	Don Farrell	Tourism 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Austrade, please provide an update on the progress of Tourism 2030?</li> <li>2. Is Tourism 2030 still going ahead? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If the strategy is not going ahead <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Who made this decision?</li> <li>ii. What was the feedback from stakeholders?</li> <li>iii. Will anything replace the strategy?</li> <li>iv. Was any consideration given to running a shorter interim strategy?</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. If the strategy has been delayed; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Who made the decision to delay the strategy?</li> <li>ii. What is the new timeline for delivery?</li> <li>iii. Did any stakeholders raise concerns about this decision?</li> <li>iv. Was any consideration given to put together a shorter strategy which could be delivered on time? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v. Are the delays only related to COVID-19 or did the bushfires play a role in the delay as well?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>c. If the strategy is going ahead and running on schedule; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. What consultation has been undertaken?</li> <li>ii. What date will it be released?</li> <li>iii. How is COVID-19 feeding into the strategy?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written

21	Don Farrell	Export Market Development Grants Scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Austrade, can you provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the independent review of the Export Market Development Grants scheme?</li> <li>2. The review recommended that all recommendations should be implemented by 1 July 2021, do you expect to have finalised these changes by then?</li> <li>3. What was the total cost of undertaking the review?</li> <li>4. As a part of these changes, the EMDG will be changed from a reimbursement scheme to an upfront grants program, can you advise who is the decision-maker for these grants or funds? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How is the decision-maker assisted in making their decisions – departmental advice, an advisory group, some other independent body?</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Have grant guidelines been developed? Where are they up to at the moment? Will you be consulting with the Department of Finance on these guidelines?</li> <li>6. How will funding be distributed?</li> <li>7. How will the decision making process ensure grants go to projects based on merit, and not whether they are in a marginal or target Liberal seat?</li> <li>8. Will the Department be having regard to the sports rorts scandal to ensure that is not repeated?</li> <li>9. What assurance can you give that this will not be another sports rorts scandal – and that projects will be funded based on their merit and not where they fall on the Prime Minister’s colour coded spreadsheet?</li> </ol>	Written
22	Don Farrell	IVS / NVS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recently Tourism Research Australia has moved from quarterly to month reporting for the National Visitor Surveys, has this required additional staff? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Yes; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. How many?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Will Tourism Research Australia require additional funding to deliver on this increased timeline?</li> <li>3. Has Tourism Research Australia received any increase or decrease in funding in your budget lines over the last three years?</li> <li>4. Will the International Visitors Survey move to monthly as well? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Yes; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. When?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Will the more detailed quarterly surveys still be made available?</li> </ol>	Written

23	Don Farrell	COVID-19 Modelling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What modelling has Tourism Research Australia undertaken on the impact of COVID-19? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What were there underlying assumptions behind this modelling, including timelines for the resumption of international travel?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Has Tourism Research Australia undertaken any research on when the tourism sector is likely to return to pre-2019 levels?</li> <li>3. Has any modelling been undertaken around the impact of COVID-19 on the 300,000 odd tourism businesses in Australia? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Yes; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. What percentage of businesses are expected to remain open?</li> <li>ii. How many jobs are likely to be lost across the sector?</li> <li>iii. Has the information been provided to the Minister either verbally or in writing?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written
24	Don Farrell	Global Sentiment Monitor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Austrade, in late February a tender was released for a Global Sentiment Monitor following the Australian bushfires. What is the purpose of this contract?</li> <li>2. Given COVID-19, did this contract go ahead? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If yes, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. What were the findings?</li> <li>ii. How were sentiments measured?</li> <li>iii. How did COVID impact these findings?</li> <li>iv. How has the information been used by Austrade to inform policies and/or decisions?</li> <li>v. When did the supplier provide the final product?</li> <li>vi. How much was the total value of the contract?</li> <li>vii. Has the contract now concluded?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. If no; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Was the supplier provided any funding prior to cancellation or as a result of cancelling the contract? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If yes, how much?</li> <li>b. Is any consideration being given to conducting this research at another time?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Is similar research being considered in response to COVID-19?</li> </ol> </li></ol>	Written

25	Don Farrell	Recruitment tender	<p>Austrade, in June a contract was awarded to Hudson Global Resources for personnel recruitment for 'Tourism Programs COVID-19 Recruitment'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does Austrade always use an external body for recruitment?</li> <li>2. How many people were hired as a part of this contract?</li> <li>3. Was this contract additional funding or within existing resources?</li> <li>4. Were the positions temporary or ongoing?</li> <li>5. What kind of work did the successful applicants undertake within Austrade?</li> </ol>	Written
26	Don Farrell	Tourism demand driving programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In relation to driving tourism demand, can the department give a rundown of projects currently underway which will assist in driving demand for domestic tourism product? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Are there any programs in development?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written
27	Don Farrell	Publications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide a timeline for all publications in 2020 and 2021 including day and month if possible.</li> </ol>	Written
28	Don Farrell	Administration - Tourism Research Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can Tourism Research Australia please provide the following information in relation to Tourism Research Australia staffing numbers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How many FTE</li> <li>b. A headcount</li> <li>c. A breakdown of APS salary bands and the number employed under each band</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written
29	Don Farrell	Credit Cards - Tourism Research Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many department issued credit cards does Tourism Research Australia have?</li> <li>2. How many department issued credit cards are allocated to staff within Tourism Research Australia?</li> <li>3. As of 12 March 2020, how many staff within Tourism Research Australia have been provided with department issued credit cards? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Please provide a breakdown of the credit limits available on these cards</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Of those credit cards issued to staff, have there been any instances of credit card fraud detected in the past financial year? If yes, how many?</li> </ol>	Written

30	Don Farrell	Travel - Tourism Research Australia	<p>1. Please detail any international travel completed by Tourism Research Australia staff in the last financial year</p> <p>a. How many individual staff travelled?</p> <p>b. What was the cost of this travel?</p> <p>c. Please provide as much detail as possible about the trips including outcomes</p>	Written
31	Don Farrell	Staffing - Tourism	<p>1. How many dedicated tourism staff currently are employed within Austrade (separate from the Tourism Research Australia division). Please provide both FTE and headcount.</p>	Written
32	Don Farrell	Records Management	<p>1. Please provide an update on the progress to move Austrade to an electronic documents record management system.</p> <p>a. What date will this be completed by?</p>	Written
33	Katy Gallagher	Contractors	<p>1. Please provide the following figures:</p> <p>a. Expenditure on all contractors for 2019-20</p> <p>b. Expenditure on all contracts with labour hire firms for 2019-20</p> <p>c. Headcount of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as at 30 June 2020</p> <p>i. In total</p> <p>ii. As a percentage of total staff headcount</p> <p>d. As a percentage mark-up on the cost of the contractor, the maximum and minimum fees paid to labour hire firms in 2019-20</p> <p>2. Has the agency performed any analysis on whether it costs more to engage staff as contractors compared with hiring staff as employees? If yes, please provide this analysis.</p> <p>3. Has the agency engaged any Senior Executive Service or equivalent positions on a contract/labour hire basis? If yes, please provide details.</p>	Written

34	Katy Gallagher	Market research	<p>1. In relation to contracts for market research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How much has been spent to date since 1 January 2020?</li> <li>b. How much has been spent since 24 August 2018?</li> <li>c. Please provide a table with all contracts entered into since 1 January 2020 along with the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Total contract value</li> <li>ii. Supplier</li> <li>iii. If it was approved by the Service Delivery and Coordination Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Written
35	Don Farrell	Fintechs	<p>The budget papers refer to \$9.6 million allocated to “enhance support for Australian fintech startups to gain a foothold in international markets and to encourage foreign investment and job creation in Australia” (BP 2, p. 65, Cross Portfolio).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does enhance support mean? What are we actually spending the money on here?</li> <li>2. What are the best way for Aussie fintech to “gain a foothold” in global markets?</li> <li>3. What sort of programs and policies will this funding actually go towards and what is the expected return on investment for the Australian taxpayer?</li> <li>4. How was this amount of funding determined as appropriate to adequately address this issue?</li> <li>5. Who was consulted about this level of funding and the nature of the support it will fund?</li> <li>6. What has been the trajectory of job creation in Australian fin tech since 2010? How many jobs does the department anticipate this new measure will help create?</li> <li>7. What has been the volume of foreign investment in Aussie fintech over this last ten year timeframe?</li> </ul>	Written

36	Don Farrell	Tourism Icons Program	<p>1. Please provide an update in relation to the work being completed as a part of the funding provided to Rottnest Island under the Tourism Icons program, including a. Has planning work finalised? i. If not, when will it? b. Has work commenced?</p> <p>2. Please provide an update in relation to the work being completed as a part of the funding provided to Sovereign Hill under the Tourism Icons program, including a. Has planning work finalised? i. If not, when will it?</p> <p>3. Please provide an update in relation to the work being completed as a part of the funding provided to Wangetti Trail under the Tourism Icons program, including a. Has planning work finalised? i. If not, when will it? b. Has work commenced? c. What is the timeline for the project? d. When will it be completed? e. What is the total cost of the project and over which financial years will it be paid?</p> <p>4. Please provide an update in relation to the work being completed as a part of the funding provided to the Northern Rivers Rail Trail under the Tourism Icons program, including a. Has planning work finalised? i. If not, when will it? b. Has work commenced? c. What is the timeline for the project? d. When will it be completed? e. What is the total cost of the project and over which financial years will it be paid?'</p>	Written
37	Kimberley Kitching	Executive management	<p>1. In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020:</p> <p>a. The total number of executive management positions b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions. c. The change in the number of executive manager positions. d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p>	Written

38	Kimberley Kitching	Ministerial functions	<p>1. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the following be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions.</li> <li>b. List of all attendees.</li> <li>c. Function venue.</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</li> <li>e. Details of any food served.</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage.</li> <li>g. Any available photographs of the function.</li> <li>h. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	Written
39	Kimberley Kitching	Departmental functions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the following be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. List of functions.</li> <li>b. List of all attendees.</li> <li>c. Function venue.</li> <li>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</li> <li>e. Details of any food served.</li> <li>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage.</li> <li>g. Any available photographs of the function.</li> <li>h. Details of any entertainment provided.</li> </ul>	Written
40	Kimberley Kitching	Executive office upgrades	<p>1. Have any furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive).</p>	Written

41	Kimberley Kitching	Customised and special-order furniture and office supplies	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the Department/agency advise the quantum spent on customised and special-ordered furniture and office supplies (excluding items such as ergonomic desks and chairs and items required for work, health and safety purposes). Please provide a full breakdown, descriptions and cost.	Written	
42	Kimberley Kitching	Facilities upgrades	1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment.  2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). 3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.	Written	
43	Kimberley Kitching	Staff travel	1. What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.	Written	
44	Kimberley Kitching	Legal costs	1. What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.	Written	

45	Kimberley Kitching	Secretarial travel	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs of all domestic and international travel undertaken by the Secretary of the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 be provided including:</p> <p>a. Flights for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b. Ground transport for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c. Accommodation for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p> <p>d. Meals and other incidentals for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Secretary's travel should also be provided.</p>	Written
46	Kimberley Kitching	Departmental staff allowances	<p>1. Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.</p>	Written
47	Kimberley Kitching	Market research	<p>1. Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies.</p> <p>2. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of:</p> <p>a. Subject matter</p> <p>b. Company</p> <p>c. Costs for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020</p> <p>d. Contract date period</p> <p>3. Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.</p>	Written

48	Kimberley Kitching	Advertising and information campaigns	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide:</p> <p>a. When approval was first sought.</p> <p>b. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process.</p> <p>c. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline.</p> <p>3. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided.</p>	Written
49	Kimberley Kitching	Promotional merchandise	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided.</p> <p>3. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided.</p>	Written

50	Kimberley Kitching	Ministerial overseas travel	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 please be provided including:</p> <p>a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p> <p>d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister’s travel should also be provided.</p>	Written
51	Kimberley Kitching	Social media influencers	<p>1. What was the Department/agency’s total expenditure on social media influencers for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote.</p> <p>3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided.</p> <p>4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.</p>	Written

52	Kimberley Kitching	Commissioned reports and reviews	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Date commissioned.</li> <li>b. Date report handed to Government.</li> <li>c. Date of public release.</li> <li>d. Terms of Reference.</li> <li>e. Committee members and/or Reviewers.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost.</li> <li>3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel.</li> <li>4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel</li> <li>5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review.</li> <li>6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level.</li> <li>7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so.</li> </ol>	Written
53	Kimberley Kitching	Board appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</li> <li>2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio</li> <li>3. Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to date.</li> <li>4. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid.</li> <li>5. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors.</li> <li>6. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.</li> </ol>	Written
54	Kimberley Kitching	Stationery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</li> </ol>	Written
55	Kimberley Kitching	Media monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the each Minister's office for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</li> <li>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</li> <li>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the FY 2020-21.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written

56	Kimberley Kitching	Departmental staff in Minister's office	<p>1. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of departmental staff seconded to ministerial offices, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Duration of secondment.</li> <li>b. APS level.</li> </ul> <p>2. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of DLOs/CLOs for ministerial offices including APS level.</p>	Written
57	Kimberley Kitching	CDDA payments	<p>1. How many claims have been received under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration scheme (CDDA) by the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020?</p> <p>2. How many claims were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Accepted.</li> <li>b. Rejected.</li> <li>c. Under consideration.</li> </ul> <p>3. Of the accepted claims, can the Department provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Details of the claim, subject to relevant privacy considerations</li> <li>b. The date payment was made</li> <li>c. The decision maker.</li> </ul>	Written
58	Kimberley Kitching	Recruitment	<p>1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.</p>	Written

59	Kimberley Kitching	Staffing	<p>1. How many full-time equivalent staff were engaged at each of 30 June 2019, 30 June 2020 and at 10 November 2020.</p> <p>2. How many of these positions are (a) ongoing and (b) non-ongoing.</p> <p>3. How many redundancies have occurred in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. How many were:</p> <p>a. voluntary</p> <p>b. involuntary.</p> <p>4. How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies.</p> <p>5. What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff.</p> <p>6. How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>7. How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p>	Written
60	Kimberley Kitching	Comcare	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the Department advise whether it has been the subject of any investigations involving Comcare. If yes, please provide details of the circumstances and the status.</p> <p>2. Can the Department advise the number of sanctions it has received from Comcare in the each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p>	Written

61	Kimberley Kitching	Fair Work Commission	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.	Written
62	Kimberley Kitching	Fair Work Ombudsman	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency.	Written
63	Kimberley Kitching	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.	Written
64	Kimberley Kitching	Public Interest Disclosures	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many public interest disclosures have been received.	Written