



THE SENATE
**SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMONWEALTH BILATERAL AIR
SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

Public Hearing – 19 September 2023

Question on notice

Professor Rico Merkert

1 PROOF HANSARD, p. 66

CHAIR: Thank you for your evidence. On notice, could you look at Dr Webber's evidence and some of the costings and comparing it with your own would be really helpful to the committee.

Response from Professor Merkert

Prof. Merkert: It is good to see that Dr Webber's estimation arrives at roughly \$1bn per year loss to the Australian economy which is similar to my model and we both focused on the inbound tourism effect. I agree that it is important to also include outbound tourism and concur with his assessment that airfares would likely fall by at least 10% if the Qatar Airways capacity of 28 frequency would be added.