

Friday, 4 June 1999

Ian Dundas
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Regional Services
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600 *Sent by email to:* Primary.Industries.Reps@aph.gov.au

INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIA'S REGIONAL AREAS

Dear Mr Dundas,

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 1999 requesting a submission to the above inquiry. Please find attached the Tourism Task Force submission to this inquiry.

The Tourism Task Force (TTF) welcomes this inquiry as a valuable contribution to a debate too often marked in the past by parochial local politics. The TTF unreservedly congratulates the Minister on his recognition of a need for a first principles review. Our best wishes, and sympathy, also go to the Committee Chair, Members and Secretariat in sorting through what will be a mass of partial evidence and solutions.

Our core concern after studying aspects of this problem in a well resourced research program over the last five years is that partial analysis and a search for a single “magic bullet” solution is inappropriate. Instead a reform agenda is required encompassing many dimensions from: reconsidered tax legislation, overhaul of planning systems, Federal and State budgetary reform to a focus on identifying and progressing high priority research and particular infrastructure projects. Given the breadth of this submission we have subtitled it – **Leveling the playing field for regional employment.**

The TTF is Australia's only national roundtable forum for tourism industry leaders and plays an integral role in the “tourism investment equation”. Over the last decade, the TTF has established a professional lobby group of chief executives in the tourism, transport infrastructure and leisure industries which also includes banks, builders, institutional investors, public sector regulators and operators.

Please note that this submission contains commentary that some audiences might view as sensitive. For the background of relevant Ministers we have copied this submission to Ministers Fischer, Anderson, Vaile and McGauran.

If you have any inquiries in relation to the document, please contact me or our General Manager – Policy and Research, Mr Karl Flowers on 02 9368 1500. We look forward to the opportunity to enlarge on this submission in public hearings should this opportunity emerge.

Yours sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Chief Executive