



Public hearing

Building tourism competition

In a competitive global market, what is being done to promote 'destination Australia' and ensure we have a sustainable tourism industry? Tourism's contribution to the economy and the policy measures in place to build the industry will be among the issues discussed at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Employment Committee's public hearing in Canberra this week.

The Committee will hear from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR) at the hearing on Thursday, 29 March as part of its inquiry into employment in the tourism sector. In its submission to the inquiry (No. 55), DITR notes that tourism directly accounts for 3.2 per cent of Gross Value Added (GVA), 3.7 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 5.6 per cent of total employment and 11.1 per cent of total exports. However, the industry is facing widespread skills and labour shortages which is affecting its ability to grow.

On the inquiry, Committee Chair, Hon Gary Hardgrave MP, commented, "The tourism sector is of vital importance to Australia's economy and to promoting Australia on the world stage."

"The incorrect perception that the tourism sector does not provide long-term, satisfying career prospects is a serious impediment to its future employment growth. This inquiry will examine how best to support continued employment growth in the industry and ensure Australia remains a top tourist destination."

The Committee is to inquire into and report on workforce challenges in the Australian tourism sector, with particular reference to the following:

- Current and future employment trends in the industry;
- Current and emerging skill shortages and appropriate recruitment, coordinated training and retention strategies;
- Labour shortages and strategies to meet seasonal fluctuations in workforce demands;
- Strategies to ensure employment in regional and remote areas; and
- Innovative workplace measures to support further employment opportunities and business growth in the tourism sector.

Public hearing program: Thursday, 29 March 2007

Time: 11.15am – 12pm

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House Canberra

Witness: Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

Further details on the membership of the Committee, the inquiry and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Hon Gary Hardgrave MP, on (02) 6277 4585 or (07) 3344 2622

For background information, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162 or 0407 406 337