



1 June 2012

Ms Julie Owens MP
Committee Chair
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics
Parliament House, Canberra
economics.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Owens,

Submission re Passenger Movement Charge Amendment Bill 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge this submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics Inquiry on the proposed increase to the Passenger Movement Charge (PMC) from \$47 to \$55. An association representative is unable to attend the hearing but we wish to submit our comments for consideration. We have also provided input via the submission of the National Tourism Alliance which has co-ordinated industry input.

The Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) has over 120 member companies representing venues, show organisers and suppliers servicing the exhibition and events sector. Our members deliver major consumer and trade events like The Sydney International Boat Show, Good Food and Wine Show, Reed Gift Fair and the Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Show and other industry trade events across mining, energy and resources, IT, banking and finance and many other sectors. They represent the biggest clients of Australia's convention centres.

Data from the Circulations Audit Board shows that on average, 25 per cent of participants to the major trade and consumer shows come from interstate or overseas. Our concern relates to the additional cost of doing business in Australia that will result from PMC increase and the proposal to index the PMC to CPI. The submission of the NTA outlines the concerns of the tourism industry in greater detail. The EEAA concurs with the issues raised by the NTA in its submission.

Our recently released inaugural EEAA Market Monitor produced by Micromex Research shows that for the last 6 months of 2011, almost 1 million people attended shows organised by EEAA members. The average attendance per show was 13,500 people. Overall, 11,200 exhibitors invested in showcasing their companies and products at these shows, with an average 163 exhibitors at each event.

The media release on the new inquiry issued by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on 25 May 2012 reconfirms that the PMC “will raise an additional \$610 million over the next four years, which will be used to establish the Asia Marketing Fund to promote Australia as a premium holiday and business destination”.

The members of EEAA, and in particular those that deliver exhibitions and conferences, seek greater clarity on how the industry will benefit from these funds should the Passenger Movement Charge Amendment Bill 2012 be passed.

The industry seeks information on how the Government and its agencies will provide new opportunities for the exhibition industry to benefit from the Asia Marketing Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Yours sincerely,

Joyce DiMascio
General Manager