

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio  
Additional Budget Estimates 2009  
26 February 2009

**Question:** AR-8  
**Topic:** Tourism Industry Accreditation Scheme  
**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Ronaldson asked:**

- (a) What progress has been made towards a national tourism industry accreditation scheme?
- (b) At Senate Estimates in February 2008, Ms Tania Constable backed the Minister's commitment that an accreditation scheme would be in place by July, 2008. Why is the scheme still not in place?
- (c) Has advice been sought from business and industry stakeholders?
- (d) To what extent have each of the state and territory governments been involved in developing this scheme?
- (e) What organisations have been consulted?
- (f) What direction has the Minister given to the Tourism Division for this scheme's creation?
- (g) What deadline has been set in place for the establishment of the scheme?

**Answer:**

- (a) A Joint Working Group (JWG) was established to guide the development of a national tourism accreditation framework. This JWG has made considerable progress toward a national tourism accreditation scheme. Agreement has been reached with industry and government stakeholders on the objective and key principles that should govern a national accreditation framework. The Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT) and the Tourism Ministers' Council (TMC) have endorsed the approach to developing the accreditation framework. A consultancy to examine the business case and develop a business plan for the framework has also been completed. The business plan is the subject of continuing consultation with the JWG. The most recent meeting of the JWG was on 24 March 2009.
- (b) Negotiations and consultations with industry and government stakeholders, and the consultancy referred to above, are complex and more time has been needed to develop and work through the issues relevant to putting an accreditation framework in place.

(c) Yes, advice has been sought from industry and government stakeholders including owners of accreditation and ratings programs.

(d) Each state and territory government is represented on ASCOT and TMC and, as noted above, these have been key decision makers in developing the accreditation framework to date. In addition, the JWG which has the responsibility for developing the details of the framework is made up of representatives from all the states and territories.

(e) The following organisations have been consulted in the development of the accreditation framework:

- Tourism Accreditation Australia Limited
- Tourism Industry Councils
  - ACT & Region
  - Queensland Tourism Industry Council
  - Northern Territory
  - Western Australia
  - Tasmania
  - South Australia
  - New South Wales
  - Victoria
- Ecotourism Australia
- Restaurant & Catering Australia
- Green Globe
- Guiding Organisation Australia
- Australian Camping Association
- Australian Lavender Growers Association
- Caravan, RV and Accommodation Industry of Australia
- Australian Hotels Association
- Events Industry Association WA
- Tourism Alliance Victoria
- Museums Australia (Vic)
- Tourism Transport Forum
- Australian Tourism Export Council
- Western Australian Indigenous Operators Committee
- Victoria Tourism Industry Council
- Aboriginal Tourism Australia
- AAA Tourism
- Tourism Australia
- Tourism Western Australia
- Tourism Northern Territory
- Tourism New South Wales
- Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry, Queensland
- South Australian Tourism Commission
- Tourism Tasmania
- Australian Capital Tourism
- Tourism Victoria
- Bus Industry Confederation
- Christian Venues Association
- Australian Federation of Travel Agents

(f) The Minister established the Joint Working Group and directed that the accreditation framework should be voluntary, industry led and at minimum cost to government and industry. Tourism Division is expected to support the framework's development as effectively as possible.

(g) Implementation of the framework is planned to commence during 2009-10.