

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Additional Estimates

14 February 2013

Question: AR1

Topic: Australia's Ranking on the World Economic Forum of Tourism Competitiveness Index

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

Senator RONALDSON: Where do we rate on the World Economic Forum of Tourism competitiveness index?

Mr Dowie: I believe overall we rank 13th.

Senator RONALDSON: When was that figure last released?

Mr Dowie: I can take that on notice for you and get an exact date for when that came out. I believe it was 2011 some time.

Senator RONALDSON: I am a bit surprised you have not got that figure, given that I would have thought our competitiveness was probably the pivotal issue facing Tourism Australia and an issue for the department as well. You think the last figure is 13th in 2011.

Mr Dowie: I would have to double-check the date.

Senator RONALDSON: Were these figures released last year?

Mr Dowie: No, the next edition of that report to which you are referring is scheduled for release on 7 March 2013.

Senator RONALDSON: What year is that for?

Mr Dowie: I understand that it would cover activities undertaken in 2012.

Answer:

The World Economic Forum released its *Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2011* on 7 March 2011 and ranked Australia 13th of 139 countries.

The 2013 Report, which was released on 7 March 2013, ranked Australia 11th of 140 countries. The Report is released biennially.