

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio  
Additional Estimates  
14 February 2013

**Question:** AR15  
**Topic:** Tourism Industry  
**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Ronaldson asked:**

**6. WEF Tourism Competitiveness Index**

Is the department aware that Australia has slid from 4th place to 13th place in the World Economic Forum Tourism Competitiveness Index? Given the introduction of a raft of new taxes and charges since then, do you consider it likely the World Economic Forum will further downgrade Australia's official ranking when it is next updated in March 2013?

**Answer:**

The World Economic Forum's 2013 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report was released on 7 March 2013 and ranked Australia 11th of 140 countries. This ranking was two places higher than the World Economic Forum's 2011 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report. The World Economic Reform concluded that Australia "sees improvements in the policy rules and regulations affecting the sector."