

**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:**

**8. Tourism Regulatory Barriers**

With respect to the Program 4 line activity, “*working with relevant partners to address regulatory barriers to tourism*”:

- a. Can the department provide an update on progress against the regulatory barriers outlined in the L.E.K. report on its website?
- b. Will the department continue to work with local governments to deal with unfinished business?
- c. What plans are in place to complete this work?

**Answer:**

- a. In November 2012, Tourism Ministers released an Investment and Regulatory Reform Report Card and accompanying Progress Report. These can be downloaded from: <http://www.ret.gov.au/tourism/Documents/nltts/working-grps/irrwg/Investment-and-Regulatory-Reform-Report-Card.pdf> and <http://www.ret.gov.au/tourism/Documents/nltts/working-grps/irrwg/Investment-and-Regulatory-Reform-Progress-Report.pdf>. These documents detail the work undertaken by Tourism Ministers and jurisdictions to remove investment barriers at both the state and national level and respond to the recommendations of the L.E.K. report. The department will contribute to an annual update which is due to be prepared for the consideration of Tourism Ministers at their October 2013 meeting.
- b. The National Tourism Planning Guide was developed to support good practice in tourism planning at the local government level and to reduce industry investment costs through streamlined development application processes and better project facilitation. The Guide can be downloaded from: [http://www.ret.gov.au/tourism/Documents/tmc/NationalTourismPlanningGuide\\_a\\_best\\_practice\\_approach.pdf](http://www.ret.gov.au/tourism/Documents/tmc/NationalTourismPlanningGuide_a_best_practice_approach.pdf). Its key features are:
  - guidance for jurisdictions on how to use the planning framework hierarchy to proactively plan for the supply side of tourism. This includes an approach to the plan-making process; and the formulation of state, regional and local planning responses;

- mechanisms for planners to better engage with the tourism industry;
- guidance on land use zoning approaches and tourism land use definitions to assist planners to determine the appropriateness of tourism development;
- guidance for jurisdictions to consider the use of call-in powers (ie allow the state government to assess proposals under a streamlined assessment process); and
- measures that local authorities can use to incentivise tourism development (eg increasing maximum allowable floor space for tourism developments to increase their financial viability, exempting tourism developments from developer levies and implementing tourism only land zones).

In February 2013 the Minister for Tourism and Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government wrote jointly to all local councils and regional development authorities across Australia to inform them of the National Tourism Planning Guide and other initiatives designed to strengthen the Australian tourism industry and to progress the implementation of Tourism 2020.

- c. The department will continue to work with other Australian Government agencies and with state and territory governments (who have responsibility for local government within their jurisdiction) under the Tourism 2020 framework to address regulatory barriers to tourism.