

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Additional Estimates

14 February 2013

**Question:** AR2

**Topic:** Working Holiday Maker Fee Increase

**Proof Hansard Page:** 12

**Senator Ronaldson asked:**

**Senator RONALDSON:** I will take that on board. Was the department, or indeed was Tourism Australia, consulted in relation to the increase for working holiday makers?

**Mr Clarke:** Sorry, the change to the parameters?

**Senator RONALDSON:** The \$18 fee increase for working holiday makers. When you asked to-

**Mr Clarke:** No.

**Senator RONALDSON:** You were not?

**Mr Clarke:** No.

**Senator RONALDSON:** Do we know whether, for example, these duty-free restrictions have driven up retail sales, and has the department reviewed criticism by the Australian Duty Free Association in relation to this matter?

**Mr Dowie:** There were two parts to your question there, could you just repeat them please.

**Senator RONALDSON:** I suspect that I know what the answer is to the first, but have you reviewed criticism by the Australian Duty Free Association of that decision?

**Mr Dowie:** No.

**Senator RONALDSON:** Are you aware that they are critical of it?

**Mr Dowie:** We have been aware that they have written to ministers expressing their disappointment with the decision.

**Senator RONALDSON:** I presume you are aware that there were letters written to ministers other than your minister, which is implicit in your comment?

**Mr Dowie:** Yes.

**Senator RONALDSON:** In relation to this matter, those other departments have obviously advised you of the matters raised by the Australian Duty Free Association.

**Mr Dowie:** In relation to that matter, the reason that we were aware of it is we saw correspondence that the Australian Duty Free Association sent to other ministers.

**Senator RONALDSON:** Did they write to your minister?

**Mr Dowie:** My recollection of that is yes, but I would have to take that one on notice to be accurate with the answer.

**Answer:**

The Australian Duty Free Association wrote to the Minister for Tourism on 18 April 2012 in relation to reports suggesting the government was considering banning Arrivals Duty Free tobacco sales in Australia.