

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 30-31 May 2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome 2, Output 2.1
TOPIC: COSTS OF TOURISM ADVISORY GROUPS
REFERENCE: HANSARD 31/05/05, PAGES E35-36

QUESTION No.53

(Hansard 31/05/05, pp.E35-36)

Senator O'Brien asked about:

Can you provide an estimate of the funding devoted to the advisory councils or groups that provide advice to the Government or the Department on tourism issues?

ANSWER

The estimated total costs for 2004-05 of advisory groups or committees providing advice on tourism issues is set out below. The list reflects costs directly attributable to each meeting, such as travel, venue hire and catering which were paid from the Department's funds.

- Industry Implementation Advisory Group (IIAG) – \$5,780.
- Tourism Ministers' Council (TMC) and Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT). (TMC meets annually and is immediately preceded by a meeting of ASCOT, making costs difficult to distinguish between the two) – \$4,650.
- Tourism Research Committee – \$3,230.
- National Tourism and Aviation Advisory Committee – \$8,270.
- National Tourism Investment Strategy Consultative Group – \$6,200.
- Emerging Markets Strategy Consultative Group – \$1,440.
- Tourism and Hospitality Industry Advisory Committee – \$750.
- Indigenous Tourism Leadership Group – \$1,340.
- World Tourism Organization (WTO) – \$34,240 (This covers 2004-05 expenditure on WTO meetings attended by officers of Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. Australia also paid \$231,097 for membership of this organisation in 2004-05.)
- Commonwealth Tourism Ministers' Meetings – \$1,020.
- Inbound Compliance Taskforce – \$4,640.
- Joint Monitoring Group for Approved Destination Status – \$4,770.
- Tourism Business and Accreditation Portal Consultative Group – \$13,650.
- 'Restaurant and Catering Industry Working Group' – the Department currently participates in two bodies established under the Restaurant and Catering Industry Action Agenda, the Implementation Group and Marketing and Promotions Taskforce – total cost incurred for both bodies in the 2004-05 was \$4,850.
- Tourism and Protected Area Forum (Officials) – meets annually and briefly during the Ecotourism Conference, with no extra cost involved.
- Australian Travel Industry Consultative Committee – nil. (Has met in Canberra using the Department's facilities, without incurring directly attributable costs.)
- Australian Government Interdepartmental Committee on Tourism – this is a committee of Australian Government agencies, meetings of which have not incurred any extra costs.
- APEC Tourism Ministers' Meeting – nil cost incurred by the Department; last met in Chile in December 2004, with Australian attendance provided by the Australian Embassy.
- Singapore-Australia Joint Tourism Council – has not yet formally met.

The Fraser Island Ministerial Council, the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council and the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council last met in June 2003 and so did not incur any costs during 2004-05.