

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

2 June 2009

Question: BR-10

Topic: Managing Director of Tourism Australia

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

Senator RONALDSON—I understand, Mr Buckley, you are leaving at the end of June. Is that right?

Mr Buckley—That is correct. Yes, 30 June.

Senator RONALDSON—I also understand that Mr Greg Hywood, who is currently the CEO of Tourism Victoria, had been expected to fill the position and in mid-May he announced that he would not. There has been a lot of industry speculation as to why that might have been, so I will get to that shortly. What recruitment agency was engaged to replace Mr Buckley?

Mr Buckley—Spencer Stuart was the recruitment agency used to help in the recruitment process by the board.

Senator RONALDSON—What was the recruitment fee payable to Spencer Stuart?

Mr Buckley—The recruitment process is still ongoing, so I have not got those figures to hand. Given the process is still ongoing, I am not sure that there is a final number. I will take that on notice.

Senator RONALDSON—Has anything been paid to date?

Mr Buckley—I would need to check that.

Senator RONALDSON—Has there been an extension of that contract?

Mr Buckley—The contract is to the completion of the recruitment process.

Senator RONALDSON—Is all or part of that contingent on there being a successful candidate?

Mr Buckley—Again, I cannot answer that.

Senator RONALDSON—What are the total costs expended in seeking your replacement to date? Do you know?

Mr Buckley—I will take that on notice as well.

Answer:

Spencer Stuart was engaged by Tourism Australia in December 2008 to assist with the recruitment of a new Managing Director. This process is ongoing.

As of 30 June 2009, Spencer Stuart had received a progress payment of \$40,000.