

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

2 June 2009

Question: BR-12

Topic: Managing Director of Tourism Australia

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

Senator RONALDSON—Mr Buckley, I understand that the minister wrote to Mr Allert advising him that TRA, Tourism Research Australia, would be moved from TA to the department. Do you remember when that letter was received?

Mr Buckley—No, I would need to take that on notice.

Senator RONALDSON—Of course, as managing director, you know that the letter was written, do you not?

Mr Buckley—I know a letter was written.

Senator RONALDSON—I will play dentist. Did the letter that was written happen to relate to TRA?

Mr Buckley—Yes.

Senator RONALDSON—Indeed, the minister wrote to Mr Allert advising Mr Allert that TRA would be moved from TA into the department. Is that what the letter was about?

Mr Buckley—I would need to check the details of the letter to be clear about what the specific question was that the minister put to Mr Allert. It was certainly concerning TRA and it was an issue raised for us to investigate.

Answer:

The Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism wrote to the Chairman of Tourism Australia on 29 April 2009 to advise of his intention to re-integrate Tourism Research Australia into the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, and to seek his support for Tourism Australia and Tourism Research Australia to work with the Department to effect the transition.