

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

1 June 2010

**Question:** **BR10**  
**Topic:** **Program Support - National Long-Term Tourism Strategy**  
**Proof Hansard Page:** **E44**

**Senator Bushby asked:**

Senator BUSHBY-We will move on to some questions with the department. I want to go through some areas of initiatives and management and try to get some ideas about how the budget is actually broken up with those for this year and for the coming four years after that. The first one is about the implementation of the Australian government's National Long-Term Tourism Strategy. Do you have figures that tell us how much is spent by the department in that area for this financial year and following four years?

Ms Madden-As you would be aware, the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy is the government's key policy for the tourism industry. It is therefore natural that it is the core focus of the division's work and also, importantly, a focus of Tourism Australia. Under the Tourism Ministers Council all state and territory governments have endorsed the strategy and the associated work plan.

In terms of budget, at the last ministerial council since the last estimates, on 30 April, the tourism ministers announced \$2.2 million in collective action for implementing the strategy. That is on a COAG typical sharing arrangement where the Commonwealth has 50 per cent of the costs-

Senator BUSHBY-So that is \$1.1 million.

Ms Madden-That is additional to the specific budget. Of course there is some in-work being done in the division, in state and territory governments, in Tourism Australia, and working with industry partners, that is over and above that \$2.2 million. But a specific initiative of the \$2.2 billion as announced by the tourism.

**Answer:**

The Department does not allocate internally in a formal budgetary manner how much time is done in kind by its officers for each of the various activities it undertakes. Consistent with broader Australian Public Service practice, the Tourism Division's operating budget is applied flexibly to meet ongoing and emerging priorities, although some activities (such as the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy) also have separate program funding.

On 30 April 2010, Tourism Ministers agreed to allocate funding of \$2.2 million over two years (\$485,560 in 2009/10 and \$1,711,160 in 2010/11) for a range of measures to implement the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy (the Strategy). The Australian Government and each state and territory are contributing to the cost of funding this budget in accordance with the Council of Australian Governments' funding formula (i.e. the Australian Government to contribute 50 per cent and the states and territories to contribute 50 per cent.) These funds are being managed by the Department through the *Services for Other Entities and Trust Monies – Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism Special Account*.

The Strategy is the core focus of work being undertaken within the Tourism Division. In addition to the specific budget agreed by Tourism Ministers, there are also significant staff costs that can be attributed to the Strategy with most staff across each of the Tourism Division's four branches involved (either directly or indirectly) in supporting and contributing to the working groups which have been set up to implement the Strategy. Staff costs related to implementation of the Strategy would be difficult to quantify.