

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 2 November 2005

QUESTION No.SBI-104

Senator Fielding asked:

How much has the portfolio spent on first class domestic airfares for each of the last three financial years?

ANSWER

There has been no expenditure on first class domestic airfares from 2002-03 to 2004-05 by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, IP Australia, Geoscience Australia and the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority.

As noted in previous responses above, Tourism Australia does not record different classes of airfares against different cost codes. Total expenditure by Tourism Australia on domestic airfares in 2004-05 was \$514,609.

QUESTION No.SBI-105

Senator Fielding asked:

What would be the estimated financial year dollar saving if all public servants in the portfolio travelled economy class for flights of less than one and a half hours duration?

ANSWER

The cost savings if all public servants in the portfolio travelled economy class for flights of less than one and a half hours duration would not be significant, and are difficult to determine. For example, based on analysis of 2004-05 travel data, we estimate that cost savings in total portfolio domestic travel expenditure for 2004-05 may have been around 3%.

Whilst business class travel is a condition of employment for SES officers, these officers are encouraged to use economy class for short trips.

Tourism Australia travel policy states that for domestic air travel of less than three hours, all staff are to travel economy class, except for the Chairman and Board Members and the Managing Director who may fly business class. Whenever practical, the Managing Director elects to fly economy class on domestic legs of less than three hours.