

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 October 2011

Question: SR26
Topic: Carbon Tax Modelling - Tourism
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

1. Has Tourism Research Australia approached treasury to access its carbon tax model so that TRA can better understand the impact of the carbon tax on the industry?
2. Has TRA asked Treasury to undertake any modelling on the impact of the carbon tax on the tourism sector?
3. Is TRA aware of any modelling done by Treasury on the impact of the Carbon Tax on the Tourism Sector?
4. What modelling has been done by Treasury?
5. What information has been received from Treasury on the Impact of the Carbon Tax?
6. Officers from Tourism Research Australia mentioned the impact that changes in discretionary spending would have on the tourism sector and said that because there wasn't going to be a large change in discretionary spending there wouldn't be a change on the sector. As a majority of tourism operators are small businesses, what modelling has TRA done on the impact of the carbon tax on small business?
7. Is Tourism Research Australia aware of any direct compensation measures for the tourism sector within the Carbon Tax Bills?
8. At Budget Estimates, Ms Madden said that the Frontier Economics Report on the impact of climate change would be made public and put on the website however at Estimates this week Ms Madden said that no decision had been made on the reports release. Could you please confirm whether the report will be made public.
9. If the report is to be made public when will it be made public?

Answer:

1. No.
2. No.
3. Not specifically.
4. Questions regarding Treasury modelling are best referred to the Treasury.
5. Treasury report *Strong Growth, Low Pollution: Modelling a Carbon Price*, released 10 July 2011 and the 21 September 2011 update. TRA has not received any specific information from Treasury about the introduction of the carbon tax and its specific impacts on key industries that make up tourism.

6. TRA has not been asked to undertake research on this issue.
7. The Government is providing support to assist Australian businesses, including tourism businesses, save energy and grow their businesses sustainably.

The Government has allocated \$240 million over the period to 2014-15 under the Clean Energy Future package to support small businesses. The Government is working to make sure tourism businesses are able to access this support according to their needs.

8. A public release is not planned at this stage.
9. A public release is not planned at this stage.