

The Secretary  
Senate Economics Legislation Committee  
Room SG 64  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

23 April 2004

Dear Secretary

### **Inquiry into the Tourism Australia Bill 2004: QTIC submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the above Bill. The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) has reviewed the Tourism Australia Bill 2004 and supports the proposed legislation as an integral part of the implementation of the Tourism White Paper.

QTIC is a not-for-profit, membership organisation, representing over 3,000 tourism and hospitality businesses across Queensland. In collaboration with the National Tourism Alliance (NTA), our organisation has had extensive involvement in the consultation process that preceded the Tourism White Paper. On behalf of our substantial regional membership, we continue to work with our national industry partners and with government agencies to promote the successful implementation of the White Paper initiatives. I am also a member of the current Industry Implementation Advisory Group (IIAG).

The structural re-arrangement of tourism-related Commonwealth agencies which will be achieved with the passing of the Bill, will create the necessary administrative infrastructure to support core tourism initiatives. A re-focused Tourism Australia will be able to benefit from new internal efficiencies and will also be in a better position to build successful partnerships with industry and other stakeholders.

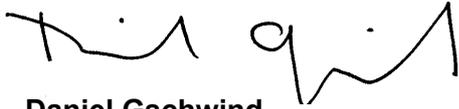
We believe the Bill in its current form does not in any way diminish existing obligations of the affected government agencies but will instead provide a platform for them to deliver on the industry expectations, identified during the consultation process over the last two years. Indeed, a range of Tourism White Paper initiatives are predicated on the implementation of the necessary structures proposed in Bill.

I also chair the NTA's Policy Working Group on research and statistics and have had extensive involvement in national discussions on the future of national tourism research. It is my view that the proposed arrangements will enhance the capacity of key government agencies to address the research and statistical needs of the industry.

It is our organisation's firm view that the Bill is a crucial element in the implementation of the Tourism White Paper initiatives. The industry supports those initiatives and expects delivery in a timely and efficient manner. On behalf of our members, we would like to urge the Committee to recommend Senate support for the proposed Bill.

QTIC would be happy to discuss any aspect of our position if would assist the Committee's deliberations. I can be contacted on 07 3236 1445.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Gschwind', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Daniel Gschwind**  
**Chief Executive**  
**QTIC**