



**Submission by Restaurant & Catering Australia
to the Inquiry into the Tourism Australia Bill
2004**

**By
The Senate Economics Committee**

April 2004

About Restaurant & Catering Australia

1. Restaurant & Catering Australia is the trading name of the Restaurant and Catering Industry Association of Australia (hereinafter referred from time to time as the Association).
2. The Association is a federation of State restaurant and catering associations working together on matters of interest nationally.
3. The Association, through its constituent State Associations, represents in excess of 5,800 restaurant and catering businesses.
4. There are 28,900 restaurants, cafes and catering businesses in Australia whose interests are served by the opinions expressed below. It is in the interests of all these businesses that the Association acts.
5. Restaurants, cafes and caterers in Australia employ 239,000 people and last year turned over \$10.8 Billion.

About Restaurants & Tourism

6. 15.1% of all tourism spend is on meals in restaurants and take-away meals¹.
7. 52% of all tourism spend is by culinary tourists (ie. those tourists for whom dining is a part of their leisure experience)².
8. Culinary tourists spend 30% more than the average tourist³.

Process for the drafting of the Bill and the principles enshrined therein

9. Restaurant & Catering Australia commends the approach taken by the Government in engaging industry in the development of headline principles of the structural reform of tourism agencies.

¹ Tourism Satellite Account, 2001

² Bureau of Tourism Research, Culinary Tourists, 2003

³ Ibid

Establishment

10. Restaurant & Catering Australia supports the establishment of Tourism Australia as a body corporate with all the statutory independence that this entails (s 5).

Objects

11. Restaurant & Catering Australia supports the objects of Tourism Australia as stated and appreciates the inclusion of domestic and international tourism, dispersal and yield as defining characteristics of the organisations aims (s 6).

Functions

12. Restaurant & Catering Australia accepts that increasing the awareness, knowledge and desire of potential domestic and international travelers to travel to and around Australia will achieve the objects as detailed in the Bill (s 7 1a-e).
 13. The Association is particularly supportive of increasing community awareness, of the benefits of tourism, as one of the functions of Tourism Australia (s 7 1i)
 14. Restaurant & Catering Australia appreciates the functions of Tourism Australia explicitly including communication with and support for the tourism industry, of which it is part (s 7 1h, 2, 3).
 15. The Association understands and appreciates the research and forecasting roles that are important functions of the new entity (s 7 1f-g).
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Powers

16. The Association supports the extent of the powers planned to be granted to Tourism Australia by virtue of its establishment as a body corporate (s 8).

The Board of Directors of Tourism Australia

17. The Association supports the proposed powers, membership / appointment criteria and processes for Directors of Tourism Australia (s 9-21).
18. The Association regards the breadth of qualifications and experience as important in a workable sized board such as that proposed (s 14).

Board Procedures

19. Restaurant & Catering Australia accepts the proposed procedures for convening and conducting meetings as reasonable to help facilitate the proper Governance of Tourism Australia (s 22-27).

Advisory Panels

20. The Association particularly appreciates the proposed ability for Tourism Australia to establish and manage Advisory Panels as a means of harnessing external expertise, whilst not diminishing Tourism Australia's responsibility (s 28-32).
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Corporate Planning and Accountability

21. The Association respects the need for and accepts the adequacy of the proposed corporate planning and accountability clauses within the Bill (s 33-42).

Managing Director, Employees and Consultants

22. The Association supports the inclusion of clarification of the basis for the authority and responsibility of the Managing Director, employees and consultants (s 43-64).

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