



MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

MINISTER FOR TOURISM

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MT 04/00791

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

Dear Secretary

**Inquiry into the Tourism Australia Bill 2004
Response from South Australian Tourism Minister**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Tourism Australia Bill 2004.

The South Australian Government acknowledges that the Tourism Australia Bill 2004 will see the structural re-arrangement of current Commonwealth tourism-related agencies. It also recognises that the proposed structural re-arrangement will allow the Commonwealth's administrative infrastructure to more efficiently and effectively support key tourism initiatives proposed within the Tourism White Paper.

The South Australian Government is supportive of the Tourism Australia Bill 2004 as it is integral to the successful implementation of the Tourism White Paper.

South Australia however recommends the following three (3) changes to the proposed Tourism Australia legislation.

1. *Part 3, Division 1 – The Board of Directors*
Clause 15 – Terms and basis of appointment

It is not clear whether the legislation allows for an appointed member to be re-appointed.

While it is important to refresh the Board, there is also a need to ensure some degree of continuity, particularly in terms of corporate knowledge.

It is recommended that the following additional Clause be included after 15 (1):

'A person is eligible after three years, for re-appointment by the Minister, by written consent.'

2. *Part 3, Division 3 – Advisory Panels*
Clause 28 – Establishing Advisory Panels

Within Clause 28 it is suggested that there should be an additional sub-clause that prevents proposed Advisory Panels being established along narrow or sectional lines.

It is recommended that the following additional clause be included after Clause (1):

'The Board will have regard to ensuring a balanced representation of views, skills and experiences, relevant to the nature and purpose of the panel, when appointing members.'

It is not intended that this recommended additional clause ensure equal representation is provided. Rather it seeks to prevent any bias, or to minimise perceptions of bias.

3. Part 4 – Corporate Planning
Division 1, Clause 33 (4)

To encourage an integrated approach to corporate planning, it is recommended that an additional clause be included to ensure that plans such as the White Paper and State Tourism Plans are considered when setting strategic directions.

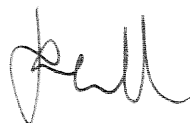
The suggested new clause should therefore read:

'The corporate plan should have regard to other relevant government endorsed plans'.

The Tourism Australia Bill 2004 clearly provides a platform for a national body that not only delivers on industry expectations, but also creates the capacity for States and Territories to strengthen partnerships at the national level.

Should it be required, the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) would, on my behalf, be more than happy to discuss any of the issues raised, if this would assist the Committee's deliberations. Should this be the case, please contact Mr Bill Spurr, the SATC's Chief Executive on (08) 8463 4501.

Yours sincerely



Jane Lomax-Smith
MINISTER FOR TOURISM
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5/5/04