



E-MAILED
24 JAN 2018

**MINISTER FOR TOURISM; RACING AND GAMING; SMALL BUSINESS;
DEFENCE ISSUES; CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

Our Ref: 70-07104



Ms Tracey Sharpe
Committee Clerk
Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Icefoc@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Sharpe

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS – QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

I refer to a letter dated 14 December 2017 from the Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC, Chair, Estimates and Financial Operations Committee, regarding the above matter.

Attached please find responses to questions from the Hon Colin de Grussa MLC about the Western Australian Tourism Commission's 2016-17 Annual Report.

Yours sincerely

**HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA
MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

22 JAN 2018

Attachment

Public / Internet

07/02/18

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

Hon Colin de Grussa MLC asked:

- 1) Page 30 of the annual report shows cruise ship visits to WA increased 18 per cent in 2016-17 on the year before, taking 143 visits. Given growth in the sector I ask:
 - a) What was the breakdown of visits to regional ports in 2016-17 and what is the anticipated level of visits to the same ports in 2017-18;

Answer:

Port	2016-17 Visits
Albany	13
Broome	18
Bunbury	1
Busselton	10
Esperance	14
Exmouth	7
Fremantle	61
Geraldton	13
Kuri Bay	2
Port Hedland	2
Total	141*

Source: AEC Group on behalf of Australian Cruise Association. (2017).
Economic Impact Assessment of the Cruise Industry in Australia, 2016-17.

*The figure of 143 visits to WA, as cited in the Annual Report, was based on the draft Australian Cruise Association report. The figure was amended to 141 visits when the final report was published.

The McGowan Government has responded to industry demand, ignored by the previous government, delivering improved cruise infrastructure and committing to increasing landside experiences for cruise visitors. Therefore, the 2017-18 cruise ship visits are anticipated to be equal to, or greater than 2016-17.

- b) What was the aggregate economic benefit of cruise ship visits to each regional port used for berthing or cruise ship passenger landing in 2016-17; and

Answer:

Western Australia Regional Economic Impacts of the Cruise Industry in 2016-17				
	Output (\$ million)	Wages income (\$ million)	Full time equivalent jobs	Value Added (\$ million)
Fremantle	\$314.7	\$85.7	1,177	\$159.6
Esperance	\$8.5	\$2.3	32	\$4.3
Exmouth	\$1.3	\$0.4	5	\$0.7
Geraldton	\$26.2	\$7.1	98	\$13.3
Broome	\$19.8	\$5.4	74	\$10.0
Bunbury	\$1.0	\$0.2	3	\$0.5
Busselton	\$4.4	\$1.2	17	\$2.3
Albany	\$8.4	\$2.3	31	\$4.3
Port Hedland	\$2.0	\$0.5	7	\$1.0
Kuri Bay	\$1.1	\$0.3	4	\$0.5
Total WA	\$387.4	\$105.4	1,448	\$196.5

Source: AEC Group on behalf of Australian Cruise Association. (2017). *Economic Impact Assessment of the Cruise Industry in Australia, 2016-17*.

- c) Does Tourism WA support the expansion and improvement of cruise shipping facilities in regional WA?

Answer: Cruise visitation represents an economic boost to regional centres, diversifying the economy and creating jobs. The Government supports cruise shipping and will continue to deliver on commitments to increase visitation to regional centres.

The Government has already delivered important infrastructure for cruise shipping in Geraldton. Funding has been committed to improve access to Broome Port in 2017-18 and cross agency planning is underway to increase landside experiences. Cross agency investigations have also commenced on infrastructure solutions at Exmouth to overcome access issues.

- 2) I refer to page 71 of the annual report under 2017 Key Budget Movements and I ask with regard to Royalties for Regions adjustments:

- a) What was the reduction to the Regional Events Program expenditure budget in 2016-17;

Answer: \$846,000 for events funding tied to the Royalties for Regions program was not fully expended.

- b) Was the money re-purposed, and if so, what for;

Answer: Restrictions placed on the flexibility of the Tourism WA budget by the previous government meant that the money could not be re-purposed to other areas.

- c) Does TWA anticipate further reductions in the Regional Events Program expenditure budget for 2017-18;
- d) If yes to (c), is this attributable to a reduction in Royalties for Regions funding; and
- e) What is the projected reduction amount?

Answer c), d), e): Funding for the Regional Events Program has not reduced in 2017-18. Tourism WA is currently assessing grant applications for new events to be staged across regional Western Australia which will increase visitation to the area and create local employment.

- 3) Under the Our People headline on page 87 the annual report gives figures of total agency FTE. Please provide:

- a) The total number of employees (and FTE equivalent) working in regional Western Australia and a region-by-region breakdown of employee locations as at 30 June 2017.;
- b) The total number of employees (and FTE equivalent) working in regional Western Australia and a region-by-region breakdown of employee locations currently.;

Answer a), b): Tourism WA allocates substantial funding for Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) to undertake marketing and promotion of the regions attractions and services, working with local industry stakeholders. All Tourism WA employees are located in Perth and work in collaboration with RTOs and local industry stakeholders across regional Western Australia to coordinate events, develop tourism product and ensure consistency in messaging and promotion of the State.

- c) The total number of positions required to be cut by TWA as part of the State Government's Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme; and

Answer: The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, as the employing authority, was requested to reduce total number of positions by 15. No specific number was given to Tourism WA.

- d) With reference to question (c), please provide the total number of employees (and FTE equivalent) working in regional Western Australia which will be cut by TWA as part of the State Government's Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme?

Answer: Zero employees.