

**Question on Notice  
Tourism and the Hunter  
Budget Estimates Hearing**

**Question from Miss Gardiner**

1. Events NSW
  - a. How much is the retainer paid to Events NSW Chairman Mr John O'Neill by the NSW Government?
  - b. How much is the retainer paid to Events NSW CEO Mr Geoff Parmenter by the NSW Government?
  - c. Are Mr John O'Neill and Mr Geoff Parmenter subject to Key Performance Indicators? If so, what are they?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Matters relating to Events NSW fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Premier and Minister for the Arts. This question should be directed accordingly.

**JODI McKAY MP**

Minister for Commerce  
Minister for Tourism  
Minister for the Hunter  
Minister for Science and Medical Research

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2. Cruise Industry

- a. Planning Minister Kristina Keneally stated that the cruise ship terminal would be relocated to White Bay for a minimum of 5 years. As Minister for Tourism do you think this is acceptable?
- b. As Minister for Tourism do you think that the White Bay facility itself gives overseas and interstate tourists a good first impression of Sydney?
- c. Do you think this debacle is a result of 'short sightedness' on the part of the Minister for Ports and Waterways?
- d. If not, how do you think this problem came about?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

Tourism NSW is represented on the Minister for Planning's Passenger Cruise Terminal Steering Committee. The Committee is currently engaging with the cruise industry and Government agencies on the most appropriate site for a permanent cruise terminal in Sydney Harbour.

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3. Events

- a. In June of this year, Ashley Spencer, vice-president of Hilton Hotel's Australasian operations stated that "We (Sydney) should be hosting much more international conventions and sporting events that Melbourne is taking". What initiatives has your department implemented to attract such events?
- b. John O'Neill's 2007 review of Exhibition and Convention space found that NSW has lost \$218m per year because of inadequate space, what bearing do you think this has on tourism in NSW?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

- (a) Events NSW is the organisation tasked with attracting and securing events for the State. Matters relating to Events NSW fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Premier and Minister for the Arts. This question should be directed accordingly.
- (b) Tourism NSW promotes events held in Sydney and throughout regional NSW by featuring events in marketing campaigns and allocating some funding under the Regional Flagships Events Program.

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4. Regional Tourism

- a. Will your department continue the Regional Tourism Partnership Funding Program after it ends in 2011?
- b. Which three Regional Tourism Organisations are in the Tier 1 level?
- c. Which ten Regional Tourism Organisations are in the Tier 2 level?
- d. What is your vision for tourism in regional NSW?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

4. (a) The Regional Tourism Partnership Program was developed as part of the NSW Tourism Strategy. The Program provides \$10.5 million over three years to support tourism and the marketing of regional NSW.

A key outcome of the Program is to assist the regional tourism industry to become financially independent and sustainable by 31 December 2011. The Program is being closely monitored to evaluate its effectiveness in achieving this outcome.

- (b) The following Regional Tourism Organisations are funded as Tier 1 Organisations:

- The Blue Mountains
- The Central Coast
- The Mid North Coast

- (C) The following Regional Tourism Organisations are funded as Tier 2 Organisations:

- Capital Country
- Central NSW
- New England
- North West
- Outback
- Riverina
- Northern Rivers
- Snowy Mountains
- Lord Howe Island
- South Coast
- Hunter

- (d) The NSW Government's vision for Tourism in NSW is outlined in the NSW Tourism Strategy. The Strategy is available on the Tourism NSW corporate website <http://corporate.tourism.nsw.gov.au>.

**JODI McKAY MP**

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