



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-2009

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Tourism, Hunter

Thursday 16 October 2008

Answers to be lodged by: Tuesday 11 November 2008

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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Questions relating to the portfolios of Tourism and the Hunter

16 OCTOBER 2008, 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Questions from Miss Gardiner

1. How much of the total Tourism budget is spent on marketing NSW?
2. How much is spent on regional tourism marketing?
3. How much of the NSW Tourism marketing budget is spent on domestic tourism and how much on international tourism?
4. In February 2008, John O'Neill's review into convention and exhibition space in Sydney was released. The report found a lack of convention and exhibition space was a major drag on the state's economy. This finding backed research commissioned by the Property Council and TTF Australia in 2007 which costed this loss at \$218 million per year, equivalent to the benefit of hosting a Rugby World Cup every year.

In responding to the O'Neill review strategy, can the Minister advise:

- a. What are the timeframes and funding for the expansion of the Showground site at Homebush; and
 - b. What the timeframes and funding is for an expansion of the convention and exhibition centre in the Darling Harbour precinct?
5. Hotels are important economic infrastructure needed and provide key tourism and business infrastructure. Without adequate room supply there is limited capacity to grow the tourism and business sector. New contemporary hotel stock is required if Sydney is to remain competitive as a destination.

In order to ensure sufficient hotel supply:

- a. Is the NSW Government considering releasing Government-owned sites for hotel development? Industry understands from the Department of State and Regional Development that they are currently in discussion with the Government about the future use of these sites.
 - b. Is this currently taking place?
 - c. If so, what is the status of this negotiation?
6. As regards more hotel development, is the Government currently in discussion with the City of Sydney on the issue of floor space ratio incentives for hotels? If so, what is the status of this discussion? If not, why not?