

TOURISM INDUSTRY, NEW SECURITY MEASURES

**352. Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO to the Minister for Tourism:**

I refer the minister to a media statement issued by the Tourism Task Force about new security measures proposed by the federal Government.

- (1) Has the minister seen the media release?
- (2) Does the Government support the broad statements expressed in the media release about the impact of taxes and charges imposed on the tourism industry?

**Mr C.M. BROWN replied:**

- (1)-(2) I thank the member for Ballajura for his question and for his interest in the matter. I have seen the media release from the Tourism Task Force and I have a copy in front of me. It makes a number of important points. Firstly, the Tourism Task Force makes the observation that it supports the improvements in airport security and screening for the travel industry, but that should not be implemented by way of a specific levy on the tourism industry. It then goes on to indicate the level of taxes and charges that have been imposed on that industry by the federal Government. In the media statement, the head of the Tourism Task Force, Christopher Brown, is quoted as saying -

“The tourism industry is already paying for foot & mouth disease protection, aircraft noise, terrorist insurance, Barrier Reef remediation, border control, immigration costs, Ansett worker entitlements and airport upgrades.

The point made by the Tourism Task Force is valid, because, as pointed out by the member for Ballajura, that industry has faced a number of new taxes and charges from the federal Government. This State has allocated additional resources to the industry, but this has not resulted in additional taxes, charges or impositions on the industry. The industry has been under pressure at a federal level and a whole raft of new taxes and charges has been implemented. The Tourism Task Force made reference in the same report to the tourism White Paper being developed by the federal Minister for Tourism, Joe Hockey. The task force report states that the tourism industry may be receptive to looking at additional funding for initiatives that are specifically designed for the industry. However, that paper, which was promised for this year, may not be released until some time next year. It seems as though my counterpart in the federal Government is having some difficulty sourcing the necessary funds to back up that strategy.

From a state perspective, this Government is happy to work with the federal Government to look at an overall strategy for tourism in the country. We have indicated to the federal minister that for that to occur we will need a level of agreement between the state and federal Governments. If a paper is released by the federal minister, without being signed off by the States, then the federal Government cannot expect the States to automatically agree. It would be nice, when opposition members are allegedly seeking to assist the tourism industry, if they at least joined with the task force and raised objections to the myriad additional new taxes and charges that the federal Government has imposed on the tourism industry.