

Committee Secretary
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

15 February 2019

Re: Fair Dinkum Power

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department of the Senate regarding Fair Dinkum Power.

QTIC is the state's peak body for tourism in Queensland and represents the interests of the tourism industry. QTIC is an independent membership-based organisation with in excess of 3,000 members, operating in all sectors of the tourism industry, including business operators, Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs), sector associations and education providers.

The tourism industry in Queensland contributed \$25.0 billion to Queensland's Gross State Product (GSP), representing 7.9% of total GSP¹ and generated \$7.1 billion in exports in the year ending June 2016², making it one of the state's largest export industries accounting for 14.8% of total Queensland exports. The tourism industry consists of over 53,000 businesses across Queensland; nine out of ten of these businesses are small to medium enterprises.

As stated by the World Economic Forum "*atmospheric carbon levels continue to increase, and rising temperatures coupled with intensifying severe weather and natural disasters clearly show that climate change is accelerating – the time for action is now*". Any outcomes of this inquiry need to provide clarity to businesses and investor and create a long-term policy framework for **clean energy**. Failure to do so will create uncertainty in the market, put Australia's natural environment at risk and fail Australian businesses and communities.

Power markets must recognise the changing needs of electricity systems, the way that we use energy and the level of consumption. Innovative opportunities to create efficiencies and support the development and implementation of technologies that will assist Australia in decarbonising must be a priority outcome of this inquiry. Research indicates that no single

¹ Tourism Research Australia, *State Tourism Satellite Accounts 2015-2016*

² Tourism Research Australia - *State Tourism Satellite Accounts 2015-16*, Queensland Government Office of Economic and Statistical Research - Overseas exports of goods by industry.

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form of energy will satisfy all requirements, however utilising multiple, complementary sources could provide an alternative and support a more sustainable future for Australia.

With the majority of Queensland tourism businesses SMEs, it is integral that the changes brought about by this policy do not create undue pressure on business through rising costs. Energy costs and usage remain a core concern for a number of businesses, here lies the opportunity to develop a system that supports both the environment and the economy. The impact of changes must be considered in relation to challenges and opportunities faced by industry. This is the opportunity for the Australian Government to show true leadership.

The outcomes of this inquiry also contribute directly to global goals including the Paris Agreement, of which Australia is a signatory, and the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically goal 7 (affordable and clean energy) and 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

For all enquiries regarding the points raised in this letter, please contact me or the QTIC Policy Team on (07) 3236 1445 or email policy@qtic.com.au.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Gschwind', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Gschwind
Chief Executive