



Australian Government

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

CHANGES TO THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS SURVEY OF TOURIST ACCOMMODATION



Department of Resources, Energy, and Tourism advice on changes to the Australian Bureau of Statistics *Survey of Tourist Accommodation*

The *Survey of Tourist Accommodation* is a quarterly survey undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to measure the demand and supply of tourist accommodation. The results from this survey are published in *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (ABS Cat No 8635.0) and associated spreadsheets.

The core survey collects information from hotels, motels, and serviced apartments with fifteen or more rooms. Since 2005 the Department of Resources, Energy, and Tourism has provided funding to the ABS to expand the scope of the survey to include hotels, motels and serviced apartments with five to fourteen rooms, caravan parks, visitor hostels, and holiday flats, units and houses.

The funding for the expanded scope only will cease at the end of the June quarter 2010. Results for the June quarter will be published on 30 September 2010.

This decision has been based on cost, the significant amount of data that is collected yet not published (due to confidentiality issues stemming from the *Census and Statistics Act*), and the availability of other accommodation data sources.

The National Long-Term Tourism Strategy (Strategy) provides a policy framework developed by government and industry to reposition the tourism industry for long-term sustainable growth. The decision to discontinue the expanded scope component of the survey has been made in the context of the Strategy. Funding that is currently allocated to the expanded scope will be redirected toward new research opportunities that will support the implementation of the Strategy, and to developing the productive capacity of the tourism industry. This includes broadening the research base for the industry and improving access to the information needed by operators. The Strategy will assist the Australian Government in achieving its overarching policy goal, which is to maximise the net economic benefit of the tourism industry to the Australian economy.

The Commonwealth will continue to invest in a range of tourism research, such as the Tourism Satellite Account (published by the ABS); and Tourism Research Australia's research program (which includes both the International Visitor Survey and the National Visitor Survey), and will continue to enhance Australia's tourism research agenda through the Tourism Research and Development Advisory Board (a key initiative of the Strategy).

The STA will continue to collect and publish information from accommodation providers in the core scope of the survey from September quarter 2010. Current breakdowns of the core scope by tourism region and star grading are not affected by this change.

For further information please contact Tim Quinn on (02) 6213 6745. Information on the publication, *Tourist Accommodation, Australia* (ABS Cat No 8635.0), can be found on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

