



Australian Government  
Australian Trade Commission

22 July 2014

Chief Executive Officer

Ms Patricia Scott  
Commissioner  
Productivity Commission  
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CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601  
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**Austrade Submission: *Relative Costs of Doing Business in Australia - Retail Trade***

Dear Ms Scott

Austrade welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Productivity Commission's interim report on the *Relative Costs of Doing Business in Australia: Retail Trade*.

As part of the national long-term tourism strategy, *Tourism 2020*, the Australian Government is committed to working with states, territories and industry to double overnight visitor expenditure to between \$115 billion and \$140 billion by 2020. Removing regulation that limits visitor expenditure is a key part of this objective.

The retail sector is a significant component of the tourism industry. It generates almost 10 per cent of tourism exports and is the fourth largest source of tourism export income. However it is characterised by state and territory government regulatory restrictions that limit the hours retailers can trade. Restrictions on retail trading exist to varying degrees in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia.

These restrictions are a capacity constraint that impact negatively on the tourism experience, limit tourism exports and are a barrier to achieving the *Tourism 2020* Potential.

Austrade's submission, which I have enclosed, outlines the significance of the retail sector to the visitor economy and highlights how existing regulation is impacting negatively on visitor expenditure. It makes two recommendations to increase visitor expenditure: that Governments consider deregulating retail trading hours and consider privatising the administration of the Tourism Refund Scheme.

If you or any of your officers have any questions or queries on this submission, please do not hesitate to contact the Assistant General Manager of the Tourism Policy Branch, Nicholas Dowie  
or Elizabeth Deer, Assistant Manager of the Investment and Regulatory

Reform Sector

Yours sincerely

Bruce Gosper

Encl.

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