

10 November 2011

Research Director
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and
Emergency Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

Right to Information (Government-related Entities) Amendment Bill 2011

I refer to a letter received from the Chairman of the Committee dated 19 October 2011 inviting submissions from public and stakeholders on this Amendment Bill.

Tourism Queensland has concerns over the unnecessarily wide ambit of the definition of "Public Authority" in the Amendment Bill. The proposed amendment is in response to the Solomon Report on the freedom of information legislation, which concluded; "All bodies that are established or funded by the government or are carrying out functions on behalf of government, should be covered by FOI".

Tourism Queensland provides grant funding to fourteen Queensland regional tourism organisations (RTOs) under a core grant and special network funding arrangements. The RTOs perform a diverse range of functions and derive their funding from various sources, including membership-based subscriptions and government funding. For some RTOs, government funding provides a major source of funding but for others the government funding is only a small contribution to their overall funding. RTOs are membership-based organisations whose primary role is to provide services to their members. It would be outside the intended scope of RTI legislation to expose such membership-based organisations to public scrutiny.

It is our submission that the Bill should be amended so only the activities of public authorities (as defined by the Bill), which are performed in carrying out the functions of government, should be captured under the Right to Information Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Clarke".

MICHELLE CLARKE
Acting Chief Executive Officer