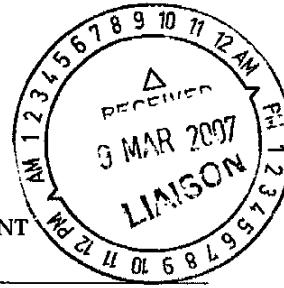




Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ARTS



MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RECEIVED	
Office of the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer	
SIGNATORY	
<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Adviser -
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> DLO (ATO)
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/> DLO (TSY)
8 - MAR 2007	
ACTION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Briefing
<input type="checkbox"/> Substantive Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> No further action
<input type="checkbox"/> Constituent	<input type="checkbox"/> URGENT

Dear Minister

256567

I refer to your letter of 4 January 2007 in which you sought my agreement to a number of reforms to the tourist shopping arrangements and the corresponding amendments to the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (GST Act) and the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Regulations 1999* (GST Regulations).

With regards to the proposal to outsource the Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS), to date, the Australian Government has not provided sufficient justification to support the need to outsource the TRS function. The stated economic gains arising from the proposal have not been quantified and the revenue cost assumptions remain unsubstantiated.

Further, the apparent intent of the proposal, the greater promotion of the scheme, is achievable under the current arrangements. Overall, the proposal appears to be an expensive and inefficient means by which to stimulate tourism. Accordingly, I do not support this proposed amendment.

I do, however, support the proposal to allow the aggregation of multiple invoices from a single retailer to achieve the minimum spending threshold of \$300 to qualify for a TRS refund.

I also support the proposal to extend the time in which goods must be exported under the TRS from 30 days to 60 days. I understand this is consistent with the GST treatment of exports.

Subject to further advice from the Australian Treasury, I understand that the proposal to extend the export timeframe to 60 days under the sealed bag scheme also requires changes to the GST Regulations. I am supportive of these changes.

Yours sincerely

47F

Jon Stanhope MLA
Treasurer
- 5 MAR 2007

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601
Phone (02) 6205 0104 Fax (02) 6205 0433 Email stanhope@act.gov.au

26
132