

To: Mr Michael Green ACCC Adjudication Branch PO Box 1199 Dickson ACT 2602

Reference: "Application lodged by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources relating to the preferential/exclusive treatment of accredited tourism businesses (A90912 and A90913)"

Dear Sir,

The Australasian Business Travel Association is a non-profit association concerned primarily with the professional development of the business travel industry in Australia and New Zealand.

The above application is not an area of responsibility of the association therefore the association would not be in a position to comment, by way of a submission, on general tourism issues put forward by the applicants.

Suffice to say ABTA does endorse best practice and views the actions of the applicants as a genuine move towards identifying those organisations that can provide professional services and products to the leisure market.

The growth of the tourism industry depends entirely on the professional best practices by tourism industry suppliers. This results in a high level of consumer confidence. Consumers seek the best value for money from reputable organisations committed to the development of the industry and the accreditation process.

Many organisations, including ABTA, align themselves with business partners who provide professional levels of products and services to ensure members or consumers receive the highest level of support and professional behaviour.

ABTA endorses the applicants by supporting the need to ensure consumers are protected and deal only with reputable tourism suppliers.

Your Sincerely Glenn Buckingham

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