

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND  
WATER**

**Public Hearing  
Thursday 17 May 2012**

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Hansard Pg 10**

**<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>**



**MS HUNTER:** Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“You did explain that the new commercial tour operators in Namadgi will be subject to the one-year trial, which we touched on before, the one-year period before being granted longer term licences. How will their performance be assessed? How will you figure out whether they have done a satisfactory job or stayed within whatever guidelines have been set down? Is there a process in place or is that being developed?”

**MR BARR:** The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Territory and Municipal Services Directorate advised that the process for licensing new commercial tour operators is set out on page 140 of the Namadgi National Park Plan of Management and will be initiated if a new commercial operator seeks approval to operate in Namadgi. At this time, a process for assessing compliance with the licensing criteria will be developed in consultation with the operator. This process is likely to involve a combination of operator self assessment and an audit or spot check regime to validate the self assessment.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr'.

**Andrew Barr MLA  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation**

**Date:** 12.6.12

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND  
WATER**

**Public Hearing  
Thursday 17 May 2012**

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Hansard Pg 10**

**<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>**



**MS PORTER:** Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“Can I just ask the same question on notice. If there is a plan for how long “long term” will be, what does that actually mean? It is a carrot and stick approach, isn’t it, saying, “You have to abide by this, and if you don’t you will suffer consequences; however, if you do, there is an opportunity for you to have a long-term licence”? I think that does seem to work in other jurisdictions so it is obviously a good way to go. I just want to know if there is a staged process. Maybe there is a medium sized thing. It might be like the three bears in Goldilocks—a small one, a medium sized one and a very large licence.”

**MR BARR:** The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate advised that the term of the licence would be determined by considering the exact nature of the proposed activity, the success of the trial period and through negotiation with the applicant.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr'.

**Andrew Barr MLA  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation**

**Date:** 12.6.12

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND  
WATER

Public Hearing  
Thursday 17 May 2012

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Hansard Pg 11

<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>



**MS HUNTER:** Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“I did have another question, and again you may need to take this on notice because it may well sit within TAMS. When TAMS, or whichever directorate or area of government it is, looked at different accreditation and certification of programs that you were referring to earlier, did they look at the relative merits of different types—say the Ecotourism Australia accreditation, the eco certification that I know that Tidbinbilla has, for instance? You may be able to answer it, Mr Hill, but I am just wondering what other systems are out there, whether you had a look at them and what you think the merits are.”

**Mr Hill:** “.....I can certainly come back to you with a little more information about the specific number of ecotourism accreditation programs within T-QUAL but I do know they were looked at it in a fairly comprehensive way.”

**MR BARR:** The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve is accredited under the Eco Tourism Australia Eco Certification scheme. Ecotourism Australia's ECO Certification is a globally recognised brand that provides certification based on business, environmental, social & cultural sustainability. It is the most widely used accreditation program by nature based tourism products in Australia. It is also now a TQUAL licensed program that will enable Tidbinbilla to carry the TQUAL Accreditation Symbol.

Eco Tourism Australia also administers a number of other accreditation schemes including Respecting our Culture Certification (ROC), Climate Action Certification, and Eco Guide Certification.

An alternative program is the *EarthCheck Certified Program*. This program is designed to help the travel and tourism industry increase operational efficiencies, maximise guest experience and minimise their environmental footprints. The EarthCheck program is also a TQUAL endorsed program.

Tidbinbilla could consider all the programs, however the Ecotourism certification is specifically designed for nature tourism operators. It provides industry, protected area managers, local communities and travellers with an assurance that the certified experience is backed by a commitment to best practice ecological sustainability, natural area management and the provision of quality ecotourism experiences.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Andrew Barr MLA**

**Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation**

**Date:** *12.6.12*