



Tuesday 5 October 2021

Senator the Hon. Slade Brockman
Chair of Economics Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: Senate Economic Legislation Committee Inquiry into Treasure Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 7) Bill 2021

Dear Senator Slade

I write to you regarding the Senate Economic Legislation Committee Inquiry into Treasure Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 7) Bill 2021 and how some of the proposed changes could negatively affect Australia's hospitality industry.

R&CA is the national industry association representing the interests of more than 48,000 restaurants, cafés and catering businesses across Australia. The café, restaurant and catering sector is vitally important to the national economy, generating over \$37 billion in retail turnover each year as well as employing 450,000 people. Over 92 per cent of businesses in the café, restaurant and catering sector are small businesses, employing 19 people or less.

R&CA delivers tangible outcomes to small businesses within the hospitality industry by influencing the policy decisions and regulations that impact the sector's operating environment. R&CA is committed to ensuring the industry is recognised as one of excellence, professionalism, profitability, and sustainability. This includes advocating the broader social and economic contribution of the sector to industry and government stakeholders, as well as highlighting the value of the restaurant experience to the public.

R&CA takes reporting on these matters to the government very seriously but sees glaring issues for the industry in this proposed change. The hospitality industry was one of the hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic and the last thing it needs is further red-tape to exacerbate its present woes, especially as most states look to reopen their economies.

R&CA is concerned that proposed changes to the "sharing economy reporting regime", outlined in Schedule 1 of the Treasury Laws Amendment (2021 Measures No. 7) Bill 2021. If food delivery platforms are required to report on the earnings of all restaurant partners and their GST, this will place an unnecessary administrative burden on Australia's already hurting hospitality sector.

As previously mentioned, more than 92 per cent of the hospitality industry are small businesses who simply do not have the time or, in most cases, technological ability to pass this data onto their food delivery platforms.

R&CA recommends that this amendment is removed from the Bill as this data is already collected by the government through other formal means. Additionally, it would strain relationships between hospitality operators and food delivery platforms who will demand this information from the hospitality industry.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter and implore you to support Australia's 48,000 restaurants, cafés and catering businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wes Lambert', written in a cursive style.

Wes Lambert CPA FGIA MAICD
Chief Executive Officer
Restaurant and Catering Australia