



AUSTRALIAN SENATE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2017-18
Tuesday, 23 May 2017
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee's Budget Estimates.

The committee met from 9.00 am until 11.00 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Infrastructure and Regional Development portfolio, commencing with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). The other agencies called were Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), Airservices Australia, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), and Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB). The departmental divisions examined were Aviation and Airports, Office of Transport Security, Surface Transport Policy, Local Government and Territories, and Western Sydney Unit.

The committee made some minor changes to the program to allow the ANAO to respond to evidence provided by Airservices Australia.

Some areas of interest that the committee covered included:

- AMSA's actions against barge operators operating without a certificate;
- ANAO's audit of Airservices' OneSKY tender process;
- the impact on overseas air traffic controllers from changes to the 457 visa program;
- changes to flight paths and the impact of noise levels on residents in Melbourne;
- the increased use of the Tullamarine runway due to bad weather;
- CASA's relocation of five staff from Townsville to Cairns;
- CASA's regulation of drones;
- laws regarding public safety zones between runways and buildings;
- ATSB's investigations into aircraft accidents, including one involving a Super King Air aircraft at Essendon Airport in Victoria;
- the classification of airports by the ATSB and the types of security measures around a designated airport;
- Australia's maritime security relating to foreign seafarers;
- additional security measures regarding the screening of passengers and carry-on baggage from certain international flights;
- national road safety strategy and road safety expenditure;
- initiatives to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles;
- the department's use of labour hire companies; and
- review of the Western Sydney Airport site and its effect on migratory birds and bat colonies in nearby national parks.