

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.:** 142

**Program:** N/A

**Division/Agency:** Civil Aviation Safety Authority

**Topic:** ADS-B and Clouds

**Proof Hansard Page:** 88 (17 October 2016)

**Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:**

Senator XENOPHON: I am. I am very close. Can I just say that if aircraft fly below cloud cover, visually—if aircraft do not have ADS-B, they have to fly visually—correct?

Mr Carmody: Yes, they have to fly visually. That is correct.

Senator XENOPHON: The point that Dick Smith has made to me just again today is that that poses a risk to pilots. There has never been a case of a mid-air collision in this country involving aircraft in clouds—is that right?

Mr Carmody: I did see a quote to that effect. I assume it is correct; I have heard that.

Senator XENOPHON: He has expressed a concern previously and again today that requiring pilots who cannot afford to install ADS-B to fly visually below clouds itself is problematic from a safety point of view. Is that something you have assessed?

Mr Carmody: Not to my knowledge. I can take that on notice and see whether we have. I do not know the answer to that, I am sorry.

**Answer:**

CASA has not conducted an assessment of potential increases in Visual Flight Rules (VFR) traffic resulting from an inability to comply with the February 2017 'all IFR' ADS-B mandate. Australia's VFR rules are long standing and consistent with international standards. CASA does not consider that flying under VFR is inherently problematic from a safety point of view.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

**Infrastructure and Regional Development**

**Question no.:** 144

**Program:** N/A

**Topic:** ADS-B Prices

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written (21 October 2016)

**Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:**

What empirical or other data does CASA have to ground the claim that that ADS-B prices will go up as a function of time? Please table this data.

**Answer:**

CASA does not have empirical or other data regarding the fluctuations in the price of ADS-B equipment. However, the avionics costs were considered as part of the ADS-B Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) and then reviewed by CASA in 2015. It was found during that review that the RIS costs were generally consistent with the current prices.

In addition, the US-based Aircraft Electronics Association, representing the manufacturers of ADS-B equipment, recently suggested that the ADS-B equipment costs had reached their lowest price point.