

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 116

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Programme: Bureau of Meteorology

Topic: Automated Weather Information Service Mildura

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Question Date: 18 November 2013

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Xenophon Nick asked:

Senator XENOPHON: and also take on notice: how long had the AWIS at Mildura been unavailable? When was it repaired? Can the bureau give an indication of how often AWISs are unavailable, on average? But of course, if it is not your responsibility, that would circumvent all this as well. Thank you very much.

Dr Canterford: Thank you, Senator.

Answer:

At Mildura airport the meteorological data is measured by a Bureau owned and maintained Automatic Weather Station (AWS) with the data provided to a Bureau owned Automated Weather Information Broadcast device which vocally articulates AWS weather data.

All Bureau devices were operating at the time of the event.

The Aerodrome Weather Information Service, which broadcasts the Bureau's data to aircraft, varies from airport to airport nationally and is generally the joint responsibility of airport owners and Airservices Australia. The Bureau is not responsible for these broadcasts and is therefore not in a position to calculate the outage figures nationally without considerable consultation with Airservices and airport owners.