



Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Budget Estimates 2022-23 Monday, 4 April 2022 Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.01am until 5.47pm.

The committee called:

- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications;
 - Infrastructure Divisions (Infrastructure Investment; Major Transport and Infrastructure Projects; Road and Vehicle Safety)
 - Corporate Matters Divisions (People, Governance, Parliamentary and Communications; Finance, Legal and IT)
 - Transport Divisions (Domestic Aviation and Reform; International Aviation, Technology and Services; Surface Transport Policy)
 - Regional Divisions (Regional Development, Local Government and Regional Recovery; Territories; Cities)
- National Water Grid Authority;
- Australian Rail Track Corporation;
- Civil Aviation Safety Authority; and
- Airservices Australia.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- construction of the new ship loader at Port of Burnie;
- selection of projects for the Hobart Congestion Package;
- department's response to road safety reports by the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety and the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee;
- update on the Singleton Bypass project;
- funding for Roads of Strategic Importance;
- updates on coastal shipping reform;
- impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on shipping exports;
- responsibility for security upgrades and regional airports;
- funds committed to the student boarding facility under the Barkley Regional Deal;
- Regional Accelerator Program;
- mooring systems at Christmas Island;
- abolition of the advisory body to the National Water Grid Authority;
- update on the construction timeframe of Inland Rail;
- update on appointing a permanent CEO to the Inland Rail Corp;
- regulations preventing Blackhawk military helicopters being used in some capacities in firefighting;
- costs of risk category upgrades at different airports;
- regulations relating to medical testing for pilots;
- air operator certificates;

- initial CASA responses to the General Aviation report recommendations;
- CASA staffing levels and risk management; and
- re-drawing of flight paths at Brisbane Airport.

The committee will next meet at 9.00am on Tuesday, 5 April in Committee Room 2R1 for examination of the Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio.