



**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee**  
**Contamination of Australian Defence Force facilities and other Commonwealth,**  
**state and territory sites in Australia**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Thursday 7 April 2016**  
**Senate Inquiry Questions on Notice**

**Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development**

The Department provides the following answers to questions on notice from Senator Lee Rhiannon.

**Senator Rhiannon**, asked Ms Leonie Horrocks, General Manager – Airports, representing the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development:

- (1) Do you know how many of your airports would even be susceptible to contamination of the drinking water?

**Answer:** As far as the Department is aware there are no drinking water sources on federally leased airports.

- (2) Is it a common thing for wells, bores or artesian water to be drawn for use as drinking adjacent to airports?

**Answer:** The regulatory oversight of federally-leased airports under the *Airports Act 1996* is confined to the boundaries of those airports. Therefore the Department is not aware of whether wells, bores or artesian water are used for used for drinking water adjacent to airports.

- (3) Can you table the information that the Department of Environment provided?

**Answer:** Yes – the advice from the Department of Environment is attached.

- (4) Can you tell us now if you can do that?

**Answer:** As per response number (3).

- (5) So what are you taking on notice – that you get advice if you can release that information?

**Answer:** As per response number (3).

- (6) Can you describe what ‘minimal’ means? How big an area are we talking about and what needs to happen to that area?

**Answer:** ILS infrastructure components consist of:

- (a) A glidepath antenna with an earth mat (90 m x 12 m) – on Commonwealth land. To achieve the overall (90m x 12m) glidepath pad, the cut varies up to 1.5m (approx.) from the existing surface. It should be noted that some of this cut will be into areas having historically been filled. This does take into account the additional depth in the drainage swales adjacent to the pad. The deepest excavation will occur with the stormwater trench excavation which will be to a maximum depth of 2m (approx.) below the existing surface or 1m (approx.) below the final pad level.
- (b) A glidepath building adjacent to the antenna (3.5 m x 5.5 m) with depth as per (a) above – on Commonwealth land.
- (c) A localiser antenna on a raised earth platform fixed to a concrete pad (40 m x 5 m) with an earth pad (200 m x 90 m) forward of the localiser antenna – on NSW land. It is presently proposed (pending final geotechnical and environmental testing results) to fill over the existing ground without the need for excavation or topsoil stripping, however

a nominal 150mm of topsoil may need to be removed prior to filling. The drain that is to be constructed to the south of the pad will be excavated typically 1.0m to 1.5m (approx.) below the existing natural ground level.

- (d) A nearfield monitor antenna fixed to a concrete pad (10 m x 10 m) with a localiser building (6 m x 3 m) – on NSW land.

No excavations will be required below existing ground level. The nearfield monitor antenna will be placed on the filled pad with minimal exactions into the fill pad.

- (e) Ground communications and mains power supply system for the glidepath and localiser installations – on both Commonwealth and NSW land.

Detailed design for this aspect of the project is currently being undertaken and is subject to approval. However, assuming a 600mm clear cover and bank of 4 conduits in a square configuration, the anticipated depth of excavation would be up to 1m (approx.).

- (7) With regard to what you are taking on notice, can you describe the size of the area, how far they are digging down into the groundwater and what infrastructure will then be put on that?

**Answer:** As per response number (6).



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**

EPBC Ref: 2015/7428

Ms Leonie Horrocks  
General Manager, Airports  
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Horrocks

**Decision on referral—Gold Coast Airport Instrument Landing System Project—  
(EPBC 2015/7428)**

I am writing to you in relation to the referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) by Airservices Australia to install an Instrument Landing System at Gold Coast Airport.

*Component of the action on Commonwealth land*

As a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, I have decided that the action that is the subject of the referral on Commonwealth land is not a controlled action. This is because the action that is the subject of the referral on Commonwealth land is also the action that is the subject of a referral under a special environmental assessment process under section 160 of the EPBC Act (EPBC 2014/7130 refers). The Department will notify relevant parties separately on the assessment of EPBC 2014/7130.

*Component of the action on New South Wales Crown Land*

As a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, I have decided that the action that is the subject of the referral on New South Wales Crown Land is not a controlled action. This means that the proposed action does not require further assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed. A copy of the document recording the decision is enclosed for your information. This document will be published on the Department's website.

I have written separately to the following parties advising them of this decision.

- Dr Rob Weaver, Executive General Manager, Airservices Australia
- Mr David Collins, Chief Operating Officer, Gold Coast Airport Pty Ltd

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact the project manager, Tim Ipkendanz, by email to [Tim.Ipkendanz@environment.gov.au](mailto:Tim.Ipkendanz@environment.gov.au), or telephone 02 6274 1694 and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Press  
A/g Assistant Secretary  
Queensland and Sea Dumping Assessment Branch  
11 March 2015



**Notification of**

**REFERRAL DECISION – not a controlled action**  
**Gold Coast Airport Instrument Landing System Project (EPBC 2015/7428)**

This decision is made under Section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

**Proposed action**

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**person named in the referral**      Airservices Australia  
ABN: 59 698 720 886

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**proposed action**      On-ground actions on NSW Crown Land to install an Instrument Landing System at Gold Coast Airport. See EPBC Act referral 2015/7428.  
  
[For on-ground actions on Commonwealth land see EPBC Act referral 2014/7130]

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**Referral decision:**      **Not a controlled action**

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**status of proposed action**      The proposed action is not a controlled action.

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**Person authorised to make decision**

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**name and position**      Victoria Press  
A/g Assistant Secretary  
Queensland and Sea Dumping Assessment Branch

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**Signature**

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**date of decision**      11 March 2015

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**

EPBC Ref: 2014/7130

Ms Leonie Horrocks  
General Manager – Airports  
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Horrocks

**Draft Major Development Plan – Installation of an Instrument Landing System at Gold Coast Airport, QLD (EPBC 2014/7130)**

Thank you for seeking advice under section 160 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for the above proposed action.

On the basis of the information provided, under section 161A of the EPBC Act, I have determined the proposed action is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment and therefore advice is not required. As such, the Department will now publish a notice in accordance with s161A(3)(b) of the EPBC Act. A copy of the decision notice is enclosed for your reference.

The department will notify you separately on the assessment of EPBC 2015/7428 regarding the component of the action on New South Wales Crown Land.

I have written separately to the following parties advising them of this decision.

- Mr David Collins, Chief Operating Officer, Gold Coast Airport Pty Ltd
- Dr Rob Weaver, Executive General Manager – Safety, Environment and Assurance, Airservices Australia

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact the project manager, Tim Ipkendanz, by email to [Tim.Ipkendanz@environment.gov.au](mailto:Tim.Ipkendanz@environment.gov.au), or telephone 02 6274 1694 and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Press  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Queensland and Sea Dumping Assessment Branch

11 March 2015



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment**

**Notification of  
REFERRAL DECISION – Minister's advice not required**

**Draft Major Development Plan – Installation of an Instrument Landing System at Gold Coast Airport, QLD (EPBC 2014/7130)**

This decision is made under Section 161A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

**Proposed action**

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| <b>name of agency or employee of Commonwealth that referred the action under subsections 160 (1) and 161 (1) of the EPBC Act</b> | Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development |
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| <b>person named in the referral proposing to take the action</b> | Airservices Australia<br>ABN: 59 698 720 886 |
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| <b>proposed action</b> | On-ground actions on Commonwealth land to install an Instrument Landing System at Gold Coast Airport. See EPBC 2014/7130. |
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[For on-ground actions on NSW Crown Land see EPBC 2015/7428]

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| <b>Paragraph of subsection 160 (2) of the EPBC Act that applies to proposed action</b> | (c) the adoption or implementation of a major development plan (as defined in the <i>Airports Act 1996</i> ). |
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**Referral decision: Minister's advice is not required**

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| <b>status of proposed action</b> | The proposed action does not require assessment and advice under subdivision A of Division 4 of Part 11 of the EPBC Act. |
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**Person authorised to make decision**

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| <b>Name and position</b> | Victoria Press<br>A/g Assistant Secretary<br>Queensland and Sea Dumping Assessment Branch |
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**Signature**

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**Date of decision**

11 March 2015

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