

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Division/Agency: COVID Aviation Issues Management

Inquiry: Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Topic: Sanitising Australian airports

Question Type: Written (15 May 2020)

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

4. What steps are being taken to fully sanitise Australian airports to avoid Coronavirus transmission?
5. Are the property bins at x-ray inspection lines sanitised after every use?
6. If not why not?

Answer:

4, 5 and 6

Airports advise a range of measures have been implemented such as enhanced sanitation of touchpoints, generous provision of hand sanitiser, and extra cleaning of gate areas. Each airport is implementing measures according to their operational requirements.

All businesses, including airports, must continue to comply with regulatory requirements, including requirements relating to workplace health and safety and jurisdictional regulations related to COVID-19.

The Australian aviation industry is developing a Domestic Passenger Journey Protocol to provide clear and consistent guidance regarding risk-minimisation principles and processes in domestic airports and on aircraft for domestic passenger travel.

This Protocol will provide guidance for industry members, and confidence to the travelling public and the broader Australian community as domestic air travel increases with the reduction in COVID-19 related restrictions on travel.

The Protocol has been endorsed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, which is made up of state and territory Chief Health Officers and chaired by the Australian Government's Chief Medical Officer.

The Domestic Passenger Journey Protocol will complement existing regulatory frameworks (covering issues such as security, disability access, and work health and safety), and recognises industry needs to implement the Protocol consistent with these frameworks which remain enforceable by the relevant regulators.