

OFFICIAL

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025-2026

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 59

Departmental Question Number: SQ25-002066

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 123 (07 October 2025)

Topic: CASA – Conversations with Townsville Airport

Senator Susan McDonald asked:

Senator McDONALD: Hello, Ms Spence. You would have heard me asking questions of Airservices about the Townsville ILS decommissioning. Have you been approached by Townsville Airport to provide alternative plans?

Ms Spence: That's not been brought to my attention or that of any of the witnesses who are here today, but we'll certainly take it on notice to see if it's been within the organisation.

Senator McDONALD: I would appreciate that. You heard my frustration. It just seems extraordinary that we're talking about providing lesser services in a significant part of Queensland. Could you take that on notice, what your understanding is and what the alternative landing methodologies will be. We don't want to have the same issues as Mount Isa.

Answer:

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) has not been approached by Townsville Airport regarding alternative landing methodologies following the planned temporary decommissioning of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Townsville Airport.

CASA understands that the ILS for Runway 01 is scheduled to be decommissioned from 22 January 2026 to August 2027 to facilitate infrastructure upgrades led by the Department of Defence. During this period, aircraft will be unable to conduct approaches using the ILS and will instead rely on Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) or visual approaches.