

Question on notice no. 108

Portfolio question number: 108

2020-21 Additional estimates

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development and Communications Portfolio**

Senator Glenn Sterle: asked the Airservices Australia on 23 March 2021—

Can you confirm that the Airservices collects from a Boeing 777-300 aircraft undertaking a return trip from Doha to Sydney around \$30,000? And can you confirm that does not change with the number of passengers on the plane? So, I think I have my maths right, if the plane is 80% full, that would translate to \$23 a passenger? But given there are currently on around 40 people on the plane, that translates to over \$150 per passenger? And can you confirm international airlines are receiving not fee relief at the moment - only Qantas? Can I ask what representations you have had on these matters from airlines, their representatives and others and what discussions you have had with the Department? Were there any outcomes?

Answer —

Answer attached.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2020 - 2021
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Committee Question Number: 108
Departmental Question Number: SQ21-000004

Program: n/a
Division/Agency: Airservices Australia
Topic: Charges for International Flights
Proof Hansard Page: Written (23 March 2021)

Senator Glenn Sterle asked:

1. Can you confirm that the Airservices collects from a Boeing 777-300 aircraft undertaking a return trip from Doha to Sydney around \$30,000?
2. And can you confirm that does not change with the number of passengers on the plane?
3. So, I think I have my maths right, if the plane is 80% full, that would translate to \$23 a passenger?
4. But given there are currently on around 40 people on the plane, that translates to over \$150 per passenger?
5. And can you confirm international airlines are receiving no fee relief at the moment – only Qantas? Can I ask what representations you have had on these matters from airlines, their representatives and others and what discussions you have had with the Department? Were there any outcomes?

Answer:

1. No. Airservices Australia typically charges \$11,602 (including GST) for a Boeing 777-300 return trip from Doha to Sydney. \$7,164 is levied for the inbound leg and \$4,438 for the outbound leg. Airservices inbound charges include landing charges. The outbound only includes enroute charges.
2. Yes.
3. Airservices charging is not on a per passenger basis. Airservices charges are based on the chargeable weight of the aircraft and the distance flown. This charging approach is similar to charging arrangements employed by other air navigation service providers around the world. The chargeable weight of the aircraft reflects the notional aircraft maximum take off weight. This weight value does not vary according to actual aircraft loaded weights, or passengers and freight carried on board.
4. See response to question 3.
5. The Australian Government developed the Australian Aviation Financial Relief Package to support Australia's domestic aviation industry due to the impacts of COVID-19 by reducing their operational cost pressures to help the Australian airlines maintain services. The package did not provide relief to international airline operators.

Airservices has been approached by a number of international airline operators and associations for support during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. To assist, Airservices has extended customer payment terms, agreed to payment deferral and repayment plans and suspended interest and penalty charges relating to overdue billing receipts. Airservices does not provide fee waivers to any international airline services.

In addition, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has a number of programs that support regular and scheduled connectivity with the Pacific and Timor-Leste. Some of these programs include payment of Air Navigation and Landing Fees for selected carriers.