

**Question on notice no. 116**

**Portfolio question number: 116**

**2020-21 Additional estimates**

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

**Senator Janet Rice:** asked the Airservices Australia on 6 April 2021—

Does Airservices recognise that in receiving over 1000 responses to their Class E lowering proposal for the east coast, that this indicates a strong rejection of the idea?  
o Did this proposal go through the normal consultation processes, including the ASTRA Council? If not, why not? Does Airservices believe that they have achieved the intent of stakeholder engagement as listed in the Ministers Statement of Expectations?

**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:** 116  
**Departmental Question Number:** SQ21-000149

**Program:** n/a  
**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia  
**Topic:** Lowering of Class E airspace on the east coast  
**Proof Hansard Page:** Written (6 April 2021)

**Senator Janet Rice asked:**

Does Airservices recognise that in receiving over 1000 responses to their Class E lowering proposal for the east coast, that this indicates a strong rejection of the idea?

- Did this proposal go through the normal consultation processes, including the ASTRA Council? If not, why not?
- Does Airservices believe that they have achieved the intent of stakeholder engagement as listed in the Minister's Statement of Expectations?

**Answer:**

- Airservices Australia (Airservices) is conducting an industry consultation process on a proposal to lower the base of Class E airspace on the east coast to 1,500 feet and received over 1000 responses. The response rate indicates a strong interest from industry and demonstrates that Airservices is undertaking an effective consultation process which is maximising industry's opportunity to provide feedback prior to any decision being made.
- Yes, the initial proposal is progressing through Airservices normal consultation process. Airservices has engaged industry on an initial proposal and received feedback. That feedback indicates the initial proposal could be improved and the design is being adjusted to address the feedback and better meet a wide range of industry needs. Airservices has published a revised design for further industry feedback before finalising the proposal and submitting it to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) for decision.

ASTRA has not met in 2021, however all members were engaged directly through the consultation process.

- Airservices has not completed the consultation process at this time and no decision has yet been made. However, Airservices is confident it will be able to demonstrate it has undertaken a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process consistent with the intent of the Minister's Statement of Expectations.