

**Question on notice no. 65**

**Portfolio question number: SQ22-000434**

**2022-23 Budget estimates**

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

**Senator Larissa Waters:** asked the Airservices Australia on 14 April 2022—

Trax recommendation #8 suggests that the instructions to air traffic controllers in Brisbane for the operation of SODPROPS are currently not "clear and unambiguous," and recommendation #9 indicates that there are no proper "decision-making criteria for the use of SODPROPS."

Why has Airservices not provided clear and unambiguous instructions right from the start?

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Why has Airservices not provided decision-making criteria for the use of SODPROPS?

Considering that BAC and Airservices conveyed an expectation to Brisbane residents in the 2007 MDP/EIS and associated community engagement that SODPROPS would be the number 1 priority mode, will Airservices now install performance and decision-making criteria to significantly increase the time period that SODPROPS are in use?

**Answer —**

Answer attached.

**Rural And Regional Affairs And Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates 2022 - 2023**

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

**Committee Question Number: 65**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ22-000434**

**Division/Agency Name: Airservices Australia**

**Hansard Reference: Written (14 April 2022)**

**Topic: AIRSERVICES – SODPROPS procedures**

**Senator Larissa Waters asked:**

Trax recommendation #8 suggests that the instructions to air traffic controllers in Brisbane for the operation of SODPROPS are currently not “clear and unambiguous,” and recommendation #9 indicates that there are no proper “decision-making criteria for the use of SODPROPS.”

- Why has Airservices not provided clear and unambiguous instructions right from the start?
- Why has Airservices not provided decision-making criteria for the use of SODPROPS?
- Considering that BAC and Airservices conveyed an expectation to Brisbane residents in the 2007 MDP/EIS and associated community engagement that SODPROPS would be the number 1 priority mode, will Airservices now install performance and decision-making criteria to significantly increase the time period that SODPROPS are in use?

**Answer:**

In the Trax International Interim Report, improvement opportunities are identified in relation to instructions for the use of SODPROPS.

The report identifies an improvement opportunity to consolidate documentation to assist both pilots and air traffic controllers on the triggers, capacity considerations and time required to change to SODPROPS from other modes. In relation to SODPROPS decision-making criteria, the report does not identify that decision-making criteria do not exist, it identifies that these criteria could be further enhanced to support decision-making. Airservices supports these improvement opportunities.

A continuous improvement approach to documentation and procedures is consistent with the Airservices Safety Management System, and work is underway to implement documentation improvements by June 2022 as outlined in the Implementation Approach published on the Airservices website.