

**Question on notice no. 148**

**Portfolio question number: SQ23-005336**

**2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates**

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

**Senator Bridget McKenzie:** asked the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on 2 November 2023—

(1. Why has the Department not established the Slots Compliance Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Sydney Airport Demand Management Act?

2. What authority does the Department have to not give effect to legislation of the Parliament?

3. When after 22 May 2022 did the Department first brief Minister King on its preference not to establish a Slots Compliance Committee?

4. What advice, if any, did the Minister provide the Department on this issue?

5. Is the Department proposing to draft legislation to amend the Sydney Airport Demand Management Act to improve the ability of the Slots Compliance Committee to undertake its compliance activities?

6. If not, what other action is the Department proposing should occur?

7. Does the Department accept that it cannot indefinitely allow legislation to not be enacted?

**Answer —**

Please find answer attached.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2023 - 2024**

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

**Committee Question Number: 148**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ23-005336**

**Division/Agency Name: DIV - Domestic Aviation and Reform**

**Hansard Reference: Written (02 November 2023)**

**Topic: Slots Compliance Committee**

**Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:**

1. Why has the Department not established the Slots Compliance Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Sydney Airport Demand Management Act?
2. What authority does the Department have to not give effect to legislation of the Parliament?
3. When after 22 May 2022 did the Department first brief Minister King on its preference not to establish a Slots Compliance Committee?
4. What advice, if any, did the Minister provide the Department on this issue?
5. Is the Department proposing to draft legislation to amend the Sydney Airport Demand Management Act to improve the ability of the Slots Compliance Committee to undertake its compliance activities?
6. If not, what other action is the Department proposing should occur?
7. Does the Department accept that it cannot indefinitely allow legislation to not be enacted?

**Answer:**

As set out in the Aviation Green Paper, the Australian Government is considering the recommendations from the Review of the Sydney Airport Demand Management Scheme, with a particular eye to modernising the slot allocation framework and strengthening compliance measures to ensure that slots are not being misused by airlines. The Government has indicated it will have more announcements to make about these reforms in due course.