

**Question on notice no. 168**

**Portfolio question number: SQ23-005349**

**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. When did the Minister for Transport first become aware of the application by Turkish Airlines to increase flights into Australia?
2. One what date did the Department inform the Minister?
3. What was the date last year that Turkish Airlines approached the Department for additional flights?
4. On what dates did the Department seek feedback from stakeholders on the Turkish Airlines request?
5. Did the Department at any time brief the Minister on the expression interest?
6. In a press conference on 15 August 2023, Minister King stated:  
"I see from reports in the media that Turkish Airlines are intending to eventually apply"  
Can you confirm what date Turkish Airlines submitted their formal application for additional flights into Australia? I understand it was the first week of August?
7. Why then in the third week of August is the Minister claiming that she had only known about it from media reports?
8. On the 15th of August, the Minister says on 4CA radio in Cairns:  
"I understand, Turkish Airlines they haven't actually put a proposal to us as yet"  
Was this statement correct on the 15th August?
9. On the 28th September the General Manager of Turkish Airlines said to the Senate Committee:  
"We are still, till this day, expecting a reply from their side."  
Have the Department provided any response to Turkish Airlines about their application?
10. What is the current status of the Turkish Airlines application for additional flights?
11. On the 28th September, Turkish Airlines said in the Senate Committee hearing:  
"Our first aim was actually to start in December, slowly sending direct flights into Australia for the first time. But now it doesn't seem possible to start in December, so we are expecting to finalise these talks with Civil Aviation as soon as possible so we can make a new plan for flights into Australia"  
If the application was to be approved, what would the best case scenario be for additional flights to take off out of Australia?

**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: 168**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ23-005349**

**Division/Agency Name: DIV - International Aviation Technology and Services**

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

**Topic: Turkish Airlines - Application for additional flights**

**Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:**

1. When did the Minister for Transport first become aware of the application by Turkish Airlines to increase flights into Australia?
2. On what date did the Department inform the Minister?
3. What was the date last year that Turkish Airlines approached the Department for additional flights?
4. On what dates did the Department seek feedback from stakeholders on the Turkish Airlines request?
5. Did the Department at any time brief the Minister on the expression of interest?
6. In a press conference on 15 August 2023, Minister King stated:  
"I see from reports in the media that Turkish Airlines are intending to eventually apply"  
Can you confirm what date Turkish Airlines submitted their formal application for additional flights into Australia? I understand it was the first week of August?
7. Why then in the third week of August is the Minister claiming that she had only known about it from media reports?
8. On the 15th of August, the Minister says on 4CA radio in Cairns:  
"I understand, Turkish Airlines they haven't actually put a proposal to us as yet"  
Was this statement correct on the 15th August?
9. On the 28th September the General Manager of Turkish Airlines said to the Senate Committee:  
"We are still, till this day, expecting a reply from their side."  
Have the Department provided any response to Turkish Airlines about their application?
10. What is the current status of the Turkish Airlines application for additional flights?
11. On the 28th September, Turkish Airlines said in the Senate Committee hearing:  
"Our first aim was actually to start in December, slowly sending direct flights into Australia for the first time. But now it doesn't seem possible to start in December, so we are expecting to finalise these talks with Civil Aviation as soon as possible so we can make a new plan for flights into Australia"  
If the application was to be approved, what would the best case scenario be for additional flights to take off out of Australia?

**Answer:**

On 18 August 2023, Turkish Airlines lodged a Foreign Air Transport Operating Certificate application with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and proposed Transport Security Program with the Department of Home Affairs.

On 15 September 2023, the airline also submitted an application for a full international airline licence with the department.

Updated arrangements have now been agreed between the two countries aviation agencies and came into effect on 7 December 2023.