

Question on notice no. 169

Portfolio question number: SQ23-005411

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 Minister given so many contradictory explanations as to why she rejected the Qatar request for additional flights?
2. Can the Minister explain how her decision to reject the application for additional flights to and from Australia by Qatar Airways will benefit Australian consumers?

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: 169

Departmental Question Number: SQ23-005411

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

Hansard Reference: Written (02 November 2023)

Topic: Ministers decision regarding rejecting Qatar Airways request for additional flights

Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:

1. Why has the Minister given so many contradictory explanations as to why she rejected the Qatar request for additional flights?
2. Can the Minister explain how her decision to reject the application for additional flights to and from Australia by Qatar Airways will benefit Australian consumers?

Answer:

In making her decision, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government has indicated that she took into consideration a range of factors including but not limited to, the international aviation market, what is happening with the COVID-19 recovery and capacity coming back into the international system.

A large amount of additional capacity is entering the Australian market. A number of airlines including Emirates, Qantas, Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines and China Southern, are introducing additional flights to Australia.

Australians will have access to 2,000 international flights per week from 34 countries and 67 destinations during the Northern Winter 2023-24 timetable period, which commenced on 29 October 2023 and runs through to 30 March 2024.