

Question on notice no. 294

Portfolio question number: SQ23-005048

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 Australian Transport Safety Bureau on 2 November 2023—

- (1. On what date did Ms Catherine Scott's term expire?
2. When was Ms Scott first appointed to the ATSB board?
3. Did Ms Scott express an interest in continuing to serve on the Board?
4. Was any performance review undertaken regarding Ms Scott's service on the Board?
5. Did the Chief Commissioner believe Ms Scott fulfilled her duties satisfactorily?
6. Were there any issues with Ms Scott's performance?
7. Did the Minister express any concerns to the Chief Commissioner or CEO regarding Ms Scott?
8. On what date did ATSB advise the Minister - or the department - that Ms Scott's term was due to expire and a reappointment or new appointment process would be required?
9. On what date was ATSB advised Ms Scott would not be re-appointed?
10. For how many days was there a vacancy on the ATSB Board as a result of Ms Scott's term expiring?
11. How many board meetings were held during the period Ms Scott's position was vacant?
12. Were there any issues obtaining a Quorum as a result of Ms Scott's position not being filled, or were any meetings required to be delayed?

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: 294

Departmental Question Number: SQ23-005048

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Australian Transport Safety Bureau

Hansard Reference: Written (02 November 2023)

Topic: ATSB - Details of Ms Scott's appointment to Board

Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:

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2. When was Ms Scott first appointed to the ATSB board?
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10. For how many days was there a vacancy on the ATSB Board as a result of Ms Scott's term expiring?
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12. Were there any issues obtaining a Quorum as a result of Ms Scott's position not being filled, or were any meetings required to be delayed?

Answer:

Responses to this question are prefaced noting that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) does not have a Board. The ATSB has a Commission which does not perform the same functions as a Board.

Ms Catherine Scott's appointment expired on 7 September 2023 after a term of three years. Before the expiry date the ATSB Chief Commissioner appointed a recruitment selection panel consisting of internal and external panel members to identify suitable candidates. This process included the incumbent as an applicant. The selection panel interviewed the shortlisted candidates, and the Chief Commissioner submitted the names of proposed nominees to the Minister. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts separately provided advice to the Minister. The Minister made a decision and, as per the Cabinet Handbook instructions, sought endorsement for the new appointment from the Prime Minister. With the Australian Government's endorsement, the Minister signed the Instrument of Appointment to appoint

a new member to the ATSB Commission. There were no issues regarding meeting quorum at any time.