

**Question on notice no. 39**

**Portfolio question number: SQ24-000037**

**2023-24 Additional estimates**

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

**Senator Raff Ciccone:** asked the Airservices Australia on 12 February 2024—

Senator CICCONE: Did the department at all provide any advice or views with respect to the decision about offering those incentives to employees?

Mr Harfield: It was discussed with the department, understanding what I call the One Airservices Plan. The reason that people were doing it and managing and ensuring that we continue to manage our trainee throughput and manage our workforce, is that during COVID—although it seemed that traffic was fine—we were still operating fairly heavily. For example, Western Australia was still operating at about 80 per cent capacity of the pre-COVID traffic.

Senator CICCONE: Okay, but my question was: Did the department actually give you any advice, any feedback?

Mr Harfield: We were in discussion because it was also about our continued funding.

Senator CICCONE: Were they positive? Negative? Did they say, 'Hey, maybe this is a bad idea'?

Mr Harfield: Off the top of my head, we would have taken on any advice that they had raised. But it was all about how were we going to sustain the organisation—

Senator CICCONE: What did they raise?

Mr Harfield: I said 'we would have'. I can't remember or I can't recall.

Senator CICCONE: Can you take it on notice and have a look?

Mr Harfield: Yes, we can.