

Question on notice no. 43

Portfolio question number: SQ24-000047

2023-24 Additional estimates

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

Senator Janet Rice: asked the Airservices Australia on 12 February 2024—

Senator RICE: [...] The CEO of Brisbane Airport Corporation wrote to the chair of the AAB, saying:

'I am pleased to advise you that Airservices has facilitated an official Notice to Airmen update to its operations recognising that Brisbane's new runway is not to be used for flights over the city from 10pm-6am [5am during daylight saving periods],'

... But wasn't there already a practice, since the new runway opened, not to use it for flights over the city between 10 pm and 6 am?

Mr Curran: I might provide this quite precisely on notice for you. Certainly, we seek the preferred runway mode between 10 pm and 6 am, which is the mode we discussed before, SODPROPS. There are certain weather conditions in which SODPROPS cannot be implemented, so it is the case that SODPROPS do not occur all the time.

Senator RICE: SODPROPS, in general, between 10 and six. But this notice is actually saying that, during daylight saving periods, it only operates until five. The act, in practice, actually means there is increased early morning noise over Brisbane during daylight saving periods.

Mr Curran: I would like to take that on notice. There is a related matter in regard to turboprops-non-jet aircraft that were departing early from Brisbane. We implemented a change last year to cease that being able to happen. That was one of the changes we implemented last year. I am not sure whether we're talking about the same thing or something different.

Senator RICE: It seems to me that there were restrictions in place between 10 and six, and now we are being told that in fact during the daylight saving period they stop at five. In fact there is extra noise between five and six.

Mr Curran: That's certainly not the direction that we're working towards, in terms of reducing impact. I'd need to check the details of that letter from the Chief Executive Officer of Brisbane Airport Corporation to make sure I'm answering the question correctly.