

Question on notice no. 65

Portfolio question number: SQ24-000069

2023-24 Additional estimates

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

Senator the Hon. Matthew Canavan: asked the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on 12 February 2024—

Senator CANAVAN: No, I'm asking whether, if the deferral is not granted and these regulations are sunsetted, would that mean Qantas might lose its share of the slots? Just a yes or no—it's a fairly factual and probably the most crucial question. I would have thought it would have been discussed.

Mr Vincent: I'd have to come back on the implications.

Senator CANAVAN: Can you take that question on notice?

Ms Purvis-Smith: We can take that on notice. Senator McKENZIE: The department will have assisted the minister to write a letter to the Attorney-General seeking a deferral in August last year. As part of that work, I'm assuming you will have briefed the minister on

what happens if it does sunset, what happens if it gets the deferral and what happens if it doesn't get the deferral. I

am very confident in this department's ability to provide its ministers with the options they need to make sound

decisions. My question to the officials who are in charge of this area is: was the minister briefed on the

implications for deferral, extension and sunset? Yes or no?

Ms Werner: Yes, the minister would have been briefed on those things.

Senator McKENZIE: I think Senator Canavan's question is: what are the implications for it sunset? If

you've already provided that advice to the minister, I'm still confused listening to the evidence here and I don't

really have clarity on what happens if it does sunset in April.

Ms Werner: The issue is that there are four different instruments: the act, the regulation, the compliance

scheme and the slot management scheme. We would need to take on notice the relationship between the

compliance scheme and the slot management scheme, and the regulation.