

Question on notice no. 133

Portfolio question number: SQ24-001332

2024-25 Supplementary budget estimates

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

Senator Steph Hodgins-May: asked the Airservices Australia on 14 November 2024

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When will Airservices commence proper continuous descent approaches in Brisbane Airport?

Answer —

Please find answer attached

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024 - 2025

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 133

Departmental Question Number: SQ24-001332

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Airservices Australia

Hansard Reference: Written (14 November 2024)

Topic: AIRSERVICES - Continuous descent approaches in Brisbane Airport

Senator Steph Hodgins-May asked:

When will Airservices commence proper continuous descent approaches in Brisbane Airport?

Answer:

Continuous Descent Operations (CDO) refers to an aircraft descending without level segments, maintaining a smooth descent profile throughout the approach until reaching the runway.

Airservices Australia is currently planning a limited application of CDO on selected city pairs at Brisbane, with some constraints on the arrival path to ensure arriving and departing aircraft are safely separated. These constraints could include some level flight segments which means the aircraft descent profile is not fully continuous. This is not unique to Brisbane and is common for larger airports around the world.

The limited trial of CDO, known as 'predictable sequencing', reduces air traffic control (ATC) intervention at higher altitudes. Predictable sequencing involves aircraft absorbing delays at high altitudes prior to top of descent.

A trial of predictable sequencing into Brisbane from the south is scheduled to commence from June 2025, joining predictable sequencing operations already introduced at Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.