

Question on notice no. 171

Portfolio question number: SQ24-001372

2024-25 Supplementary budget estimates

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

Senator Bridget McKenzie: asked the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on 14 November 2024—

- (1.Can the Department confirm that there have been no changes to the draft noise mitigation policy from the draft EIS?
- 2.How many residences will be obtaining noise mitigation treatments for their homes?
- 3.Why has the Department not made changes to provide noise treatments to other residences that are outside the ANEC 20 zone but could still potentially have the same amount of noise from aircraft affect them, when more than half of the submissions received by the Department related to aircraft noise impacts?
- 4.How many submissions did the Department receive about noise mitigation as part of the EIS process?
- 5.Does the Department feel that releasing a draft EIS over Christmas and giving only three months for consultation, was enough time for Western Sydney communities such as Penrith and St Clair who had not previously been severely impacted by the EIS 2016, to understand complex information and present a submission to the Department?

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: 171

Departmental Question Number: SQ24-001372

Division/Agency Name: DIV - International Aviation Technology and Services

Hansard Reference: Written (14 November 2024)

Topic: Noise mitigation

Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:

1. Can the Department confirm that there have been no changes to the draft noise mitigation policy from the draft EIS?
2. How many residences will be obtaining noise mitigation treatments for their homes?
3. Why has the Department not made changes to provide noise treatments to other residences that are outside the ANEC 20 zone but could still potentially have the same amount of noise from aircraft affect them, when more than half of the submissions received by the Department related to aircraft noise impacts?
4. How many submissions did the Department receive about noise mitigation as part of the EIS process?
5. Does the Department feel that releasing a draft EIS over Christmas and giving only three months for consultation, was enough time for Western Sydney communities such as Penrith and St Clair who had not previously been severely impacted by the EIS 2016, to understand complex information and present a submission to the Department?

Answer:

1. There have been changes to the final Noise Insulation and Property Acquisition (NIPA) policy included in the airspace and flight path design Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The changes reflect stakeholder feedback including as part of the EIS consultation process.
2. Detailed information on the final eligibility area, and where natural boundaries will be considered, will be included in the program guidelines, which will be released prior to the program's implementation.
3. The NIPA policy has adopted the 2040 ANEC 20 composite contour which reflects all 5 runway modes of operation, including night modes, and represents the largest ANEC footprint. This is a conservative approach to capture the highest number of properties that may be eligible for amelioration treatment or acquisition:
4. 1,053 submissions raised noise mitigation in relation to insulation, acquisition and other compensation. 977 submissions raised other noise mitigation and management issues.
5. The Draft EIS was subject to an extended consultation period of 14 weeks which exceeded the minimum statutory timeframe of 20 business days, and followed extensive awareness raising activities including the early release of Western Sydney Airport's draft flight paths on 27 June 2023.