

**Question on notice no. 176**

**Portfolio question number: SQ24-001395**

**2024-25 Supplementary budget estimates**

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

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** asked the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on 14 November 2024—

Despite growth in passenger movements and in overall capacity, there has been a decrease in the number of regional aerodromes served, down from 278 in 1984 to 142 in 2021.

Between 1989 and 2021, the number of regional routes fell from 458 to 291 and the number of remote routes fell from 264 to 163.

1.Does the department have a defined program for engaging with the operators of the tier 2 regional airports?

a.In what form are these engagements and how often are they conducted?

b.Which regional airport operators has the department engaged with since 1 July 2022?

c.What's the feedback/findings from these engagements with the regional airport operators?

**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: 176**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ24-001395**

**Division/Agency Name: DIV - Domestic Aviation and Reform**

**Hansard Reference: Written (14 November 2024)**

**Topic: Engaging with operators at tier 2 regional airports**

**Senator Jacqui Lambie asked:**

Despite growth in passenger movements and in overall capacity, there has been a decrease in the number of regional aerodromes served, down from 278 in 1984 to 142 in 2021. Between 1989 and 2021, the number of regional routes fell from 458 to 291 and the number of remote routes fell from 264 to 163.

1. Does the department have a defined program for engaging with the operators of the tier 2 regional airports?
  - a. In what form are these engagements and how often are they conducted?
  - b. Which regional airport operators has the department engaged with since 1 July 2022?
  - c. What's the feedback/findings from these engagements with the regional airport operators?

**Answer:**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts has undertaken extensive consultation with the aviation industry including regional airports, as well as state and territory governments and the Australian community during the development of the Aviation White Paper, that was released on 26 August 2024.

The Aviation White Paper sets out the Australian Government's vision for Australia's aviation sector towards 2050 to ensure it remains safe, competitive, productive and sustainable. The Aviation White Paper and submissions received during the consultation process are available on the department's website at [www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/aviation/aviation-white-paper](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/aviation/aviation-white-paper).