

## **Question on notice no. 202**

**Portfolio question number: SQ25-002502**

### **2025-26 Supplementary Budget estimates**

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

**Senator Jessica Collins:** asked the Civil Aviation Safety Authority on 1 December 2025—

Senator COLLINS: [...] I actually have a snapshot of some very specific examples where pilots have died while doing these training checks. In 1995, two pilots died doing a take-off decision speed cut in Tamworth. In 2003, two pilots died doing a loss-of-control asymmetric practice in Bankstown. In 2010, two pilots died doing a simulated take-off decision speed cut in Darwin. In 2017, three pilots died doing a simulated engine failure after take-off in Renmark, in South Australia. In 2019, two pilots died doing a simulated engine failure after take-off in Mareeba, in Queensland. In 2025, just a few months ago, two pilots died doing a proficiency check, which is still under investigation. One was a very experienced training officer and another a commercial pilot. The total, of the ones that I've been able to find on open source, is 13 people that have died doing very risky manoeuvres as part of the training checks. My understanding is that now they have to do more of them across a lot of different types of aircraft. Would you accept, having the understanding of that-and also the understanding that pilots are dying practising failures that almost never kill any pilots in real life-that you're forcing repeated exposure to known fatal-risk manoeuvres, and that contradicts the requirements of reducing risk?

Ms Spence: What I would say is that I'd like to go through the information in a bit more detail than that. I totally understand. We lost one of our own CASA employees as one of those people that you mentioned in those numbers. It is something we take very seriously, and we have looked at it. I suppose, with everything, there is that need to make sure that people have had that proficiency checking, but I'm happy to go through the numbers that you've provided in a bit more detail and also explain why we're doing what we're doing. We will take that on notice.

[...]

Senator COLLINS: [...] On the first issue, I was wondering whether, as a follow up to that, you'll be getting back to us and if you will pause and review the process and training and so forth.

Ms Spence: We'll look at it quickly. I do take it very seriously.

Senator COLLINS: Will it be before Christmas?

Ms Spence: We'll try to do what we can. We'll certainly be talking about it, and if there are any changes I will make sure that we let this committee know.

Senator COLLINS: Thank you.