

Question on notice no. 348

Portfolio question number: SQ25-002688

2025-26 Supplementary Budget estimates

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

Senator Bridget McKenzie: asked the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts on 12 December 2025—

(1. Does the Department accept that there is currently a regulatory gap between:

- (a) Airport corporations
- (b) The Airport Building Controller
- (c) State planning systems
- (d) Commonwealth oversight?

2. If the Department does not accept this, what safeguards does it rely upon to prevent unnecessary loss of aviation capability?

Answer —

Please see PDF attachment.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025-2026

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 348

Departmental Question Number: SQ25-002688

Division/Agency Name: DIV - Domestic Aviation and Reform

Hansard Reference: Written (12 December 2025)

Topic: Loss of aviation capability

Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:

1. Does the Department accept that there is currently a regulatory gap between: a) Airport corporations b) The Airport Building Controller c) State planning systems d) Commonwealth oversight?
2. If the Department does not accept this, what safeguards does it rely upon to prevent unnecessary loss of aviation capability?

Answer:

1. No.
2. Under the *Airports Act 1996* and associated regulations, all leased federal airports are required to maintain an Airport Final Master Plan, which the minister approves once satisfied that applicable legislative requirements have been met. All building and works applications must be consistent with the relevant Airport Final Master Plan.