

**Question on notice no. 356**

**Portfolio question number: SQ25-002680**

**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. What formal oversight does the Department exercise over decisions made by the Airport Building Controller at Federally leased general aviation airports?
2. How often does the Department review or audit the performance of the Airport Building Controller?
3. Has the Department ever overturned, intervened in, or formally reviewed a development decision made by the Airport Building Controller at Federally leased general aviation airports? If yes, provide dates and reasons.
4. Is the Airport Building Controller required to report development approvals, demolitions, or major variations to the Department?

**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: 356**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ25-002680**

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

**Hansard Reference: Written (12 December 2025)**

**Topic: Departmental review of Airport Building Controllers**

**Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:**

1. What formal oversight does the Department exercise over decisions made by the Airport Building Controller at Federally leased general aviation airports?
2. How often does the Department review or audit the performance of the Airport Building Controller?
3. Has the Department ever overturned, intervened in, or formally reviewed a development decision made by the Airport Building Controller at Federally leased general aviation airports? If yes, provide dates and reasons.
4. Is the Airport Building Controller required to report development approvals, demolitions, or major variations to the Department?

**Answer:**

1. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts contracts and appoints Airport Building Controllers (ABCs) as the technical experts responsible for assessing building applications for compliance with the Building Code of Australia, and making decisions in accordance with legislation. The department monitors and periodically audits compliance of ABCs' performance with relevant legislation.
2. The department undertakes official performance reviews quarterly as part of the contract management framework.
3. ABCs do not make development decisions; they assess building applications for compliance with the Building Code of Australia.
4. ABCs do not make development decisions; they assess building applications for compliance with the Building Code of Australia.