

**Question on notice no. 357**

**Portfolio question number: SQ25-002679**

**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. When does the Department first become aware of development proposals at federally leased general aviation airports such as Moorabbin Airport, Archerfield etc?

- (a) At concept stage
- (b) At formal application stage
- (c) Only after Airport Building Controller approval
- (d) Only after construction commences

(e) The Department is not routinely notified

2. Is the Department automatically notified of all development applications submitted to the Airport Building Controller for Moorabbin Airport? If not, why not?

3. What statutory role does the Department play in assessing development proposals at federally leased airports under the Airports Act 1996?

4. Does the Department independently assess whether proposed developments are consistent with:

- (a) The approved Airport Master Plan
- (b) The Airport Environment Strategy
- (c) Aviation safeguarding (OLS/PANS-OPS)
- (d) The Aviation White Paper

(e) The intent of the airport privatisation framework

5. If the Department does not conduct these assessments, who does?

**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: 357

Departmental Question Number: SQ25-002679

Division/Agency Name: DIV - Domestic Aviation and Reform

Hansard Reference: Written (12 December 2025)

Topic: Development proposals at federally leased airports

Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:

1. When does the Department first become aware of development proposals at federally leased general aviation airports such as Moorabbin Airport, Archerfield etc? a) At concept stage b) At formal application stage c) Only after Airport Building Controller approval d) Only after construction commences e) The Department is not routinely notified
2. Is the Department automatically notified of all development applications submitted to the Airport Building Controller for Moorabbin Airport? If not, why not?
3. What statutory role does the Department play in assessing development proposals at federally leased airports under the Airports Act 1996?
4. Does the Department independently assess whether proposed developments are consistent with: a) The approved Airport Master Plan b) The Airport Environment Strategy c) Aviation safeguarding (OLS/PANS-OPS) d) The Aviation White Paper e) The intent of the airport privatisation framework
5. If the Department does not conduct these assessments, who does?

Answers:

1. For major airport developments (as defined in section 89 of the *Airports Act 1996* (the Act)), the airport-lessee company (ALC) is required to submit a draft Major Development Plan (MDP) to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for consideration under section 94 of the Act. Before submitting a draft MDP, the ALC is required to undertake a public comment process consistent with section 92 of the Act.

Ahead of this public comment period, the ALC may engage with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts on the proposed development. Otherwise, the department is aware of the proposed development when the ALC commences the public comment period on the draft MDP, or when the draft MDP is submitted to the minister for consideration.

2. The Airport Building Controller (ABC) at Moorabbin Airport reviews and approves building applications under the *Airports (Building Control) Regulations 1996*. The regulatory framework does not mandate automatic notification to the department for building activities assessed by the ABC.

3. Under Part 5 of the Act, the department provides advice to the minister on draft master plans and draft MDPs submitted for consideration under section 81 and section 94 of the Act, and on any minor variations to approved master plans or MDPs.
4. a) The approved Airport Master Plan and b) Airport Environment Strategy  
Yes, for major airport developments.  
c) Aviation safeguarding (OLS/PANS-OPS)  
The Civil Aviation Safety Authority and Airservices Australia provide advice to the Minister on aviation safety and operational matters, including aviation safeguarding.  
d) The Aviation White Paper and e) The intent of the airport privatisation framework.  
Yes, to the extent necessary for master plans and MDPs.
5. Refer to Question 4 response.