

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

Australia's Antarctic Territory – 19 October 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: JSCNCET - Australia's Antarctic Territory - Q1 - Bunkering at Wilkins Runway

Question reference number: 1

Member Snowdon, Warren

Type of question: 19 October 2017, Hansard Page

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 November 2017

Question: Mr SNOWDON: Presumably you are refuelling at Wilkins?

Cdre Hatcher: Yes, they will be.

Mr SNOWDON: At the moment, how much bunkering is there available at Wilkins?

Cdre Hatcher: I would need to take that on notice.

Mr SNOWDON: If you increase the flight obviously the logistics of supplying the fuel will be significant, and I would have thought that other services associated with flight movements—if you could let us know.

Cdre Hatcher: I will take that on notice and come back to the committee.

Answer:

The Royal Australian Air Force does not refuel its aircraft at Wilkins Aerodome, and no fuel is currently stored there for such purposes. If required, aviation fuel can be transported to the aerodome from Australia's Casey Station.

Sufficient fuel is carried by Air Force to support C-17A return flights to Wilkins Aerodome. For any C-17A return flights to Antarctica of a longer duration, such as the airdrop to Davis Station conducted on 20 September 2017, air-to-air refuelling is an option.