

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 2023 - 2024

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 144

Departmental Question Number: SQ24-000197

Division/Agency Name: DIV - Domestic Aviation and Reform

Hansard Reference: Written (22 February 2024)

Topic: Aviation Slot Compliance Committee

Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:

The Slot Compliance Committee hasn't met since 2020 and the appointments have lapsed. Section 66(1) of the Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997 says There is to be a Compliance Committee for Sydney Airport. But there isn't one.

1. How is the Government in compliance with this act of parliament?
2. Why has the Department not established the Slots Compliance Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Sydney Airport Demand Management Act?
3. What authority does the Department have to not give effect to legislation of the Parliament?

Answer:

The last appointments to the Slot Compliance Committee expired in 2020. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is in the process of arranging new appointments to the Committee as provided for under Section 66 of the *Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997*.

As set out in the Aviation Green Paper, the Australian Government undertook further targeted consultation last year on potential changes to the Sydney Airport demand management framework, with a particular eye to modernising the slot allocation framework and strengthening compliance measures to ensure that slots are not being misused by airlines.

On 21 February 2024, the Government announced a major package of reforms to the Sydney Airport demand management framework aimed at boosting efficiency, competition and consumers' outcomes while maintaining community protections. This includes reforms to modernise the compliance regime. Further information is available at:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/aviation/airports/reforms-sydney-airport-demand-management-framework.