

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Additional Estimates 2023 - 2024**

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

**Committee Question Number: 43**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ24-000047**

**Division/Agency Name: Agency - Airservices Australia**

**Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 73 (12 February 2024)**

**Topic: Airservices – Brisbane Airport Runway during Daylight Savings**

**Senator Janet Rice asked:**

Senator RICE: [...] The CEO of Brisbane Airport Corporation wrote to the chair of the AAB, saying:

'I am pleased to advise you that Airservices has facilitated an official Notice to Airmen update to its operations recognising that Brisbane's new runway is not to be used for flights over the city from 10pm-6am [5am during daylight saving periods],'

But wasn't there already a practice, since the new runway opened, not to use it for flights over the city between 10 pm and 6 am?

Mr Curran: I might provide this quite precisely on notice for you. Certainly, we seek the preferred runway mode between 10 pm and 6 am, which is the mode we discussed before, SODPROPS. There are certain weather conditions in which SODPROPS cannot be implemented, so it is the case that SODPROPS do not occur all the time.

Senator RICE: SODPROPS, in general, between 10 and six. But this notice is actually saying that, during daylight saving periods, it only operates until five. The act, in practice, actually means there is increased early morning noise over Brisbane during daylight saving periods.

Mr Curran: I would like to take that on notice. There is a related matter in regard to turboprops—non-jet aircraft that were departing early from Brisbane. We implemented a change last year to cease that being able to happen. That was one of the changes we implemented last year. I am not sure whether we're talking about the same thing or something different.

Senator RICE: It seems to me that there were restrictions in place between 10 and six, and now we are being told that in fact during the daylight saving period they stop at five. In fact there is extra noise between five and six.

Mr Curran: That's certainly not the direction that we're working towards, in terms of reducing impact. I'd need to check the details of that letter from the Chief Executive Officer of Brisbane Airport Corporation to make sure I'm answering the question correctly.

**Answer:**

Brisbane Airport does not operate on daylight savings time. Consistent with all airport operations, the Brisbane Airport Noise Abatement Procedure (NAP) is based on local time and does not change when other states enter daylight savings time.

A Noise Abatement Procedure (NAP) relating to preferred runway use at night – 10pm to 6am local time – has been in place since the new parallel runway opened. This NAP restricts jet aircraft landing on the new runway when approaching over the city and taking off from the new runway when departing over the city. The new runway may be used for arrival or departure over the waters of Moreton Bay.

The NAP allowed departure of some turboprop aircraft between 5am and 6am from the new runway over the city. This aimed to clear some conflicting traffic to allow Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations (SODPROPS) to continue to operate for jet aircraft as the peak traffic period approaches. Engagement was undertaken based on recommendation 2.4 c) of the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane to reduce the impact of aircraft operations during night-time periods which included removing the turboprop departure from the new runway. Turboprop aircraft can depart the legacy runway over the Lytton industrial estate to ensure that SODPROPS can continue to operate and to minimise noise impacts on the Brisbane community.