

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Additional Estimates 2023 - 2024**

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

**Committee Question Number: 41**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ24-000040**

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

**Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 69-70 (12 February 2024)**

**Topic: Airservices - Post-Implementation Review – Packages 3 and 4**

**Senator Janet Rice asked:**

Senator RICE: For package 3 and package 4 to be implemented, what's the time line?

Mr Curran: Package 3 is being developed throughout this year, for implementation into next year, and package 4 can start in parallel next year but will likely continue into 2026.

Senator RICE: And will require more staff.

Mr Curran: For the training et cetera, yes. I couldn't give you an exact number at the moment, but we're anticipating that the training load for a major change would require some additional staff. It's not many staff; it's a small number of licence-rated staff in those particular roles in Brisbane.

Senator RICE: So you've got a double-whammy going on, in that you are currently short of staff, compared with where you'd like to be in Brisbane, even to conduct your operations as normal, and then you've got this additional load that's going to be required.

Mr Curran: I think that's the point that Mr Harfield was making around the change program that we have coming with Brisbane, Western Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

Senator RICE: You've said that you aren't able to say now how many extra staff, compared with what you've got at the moment, will be needed for the implementation of package 3 and package 4. Could you take that on notice.

Mr Curran: Yes.

**Answer:**

Brisbane operations require 39 air traffic controllers in Airservices' Terminal Control Unit to provide full service. Airservices plans to have 46 controllers allocated to this airspace by July 2024.

The specific design and operational outcomes of Packages 3 and 4 have not yet been determined. Once this is finalised the associated procedures and training will be developed, and at this point any temporary staffing impacts will be identified.