

**Question on notice no. 104**

**Portfolio question number: 104**

**2020-21 Additional estimates**

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development and Communications Portfolio**

**Senator Anthony Chisholm:** asked the Airservices Australia on 22 March 2021—

Senator CHISHOLM: What input did the Brisbane Airport Corporation provide as far as a preferred model of operation for the use of parallel runways? Mr Harfield: I have to take that on notice to go back. Having parallel runways has been around for Brisbane for 20 years, so that sort of decision was made at that stage. The difference between dependent and independent parallel runways is the distance between the runways and how they operate. When they are a certain distance apart, such as in Sydney, where they're only about just over a kilometre apart, they have to be operated in what we call a 'dependent mode', which means that they are treated as one runway: if you have aircraft on final, you have to stagger them—even though, technically, they are on different runways—because the runways are treated as one. When they are independent, you can operate them as two separate runways. That's the difference between 'dependent' and 'independent'. So I would have to go back and check, because that's not a recent decision.

**Answer —**

Answer attached.

**Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2020 - 2021  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

**Committee Question Number:** 104  
**Departmental Question Number:** SQ21-000053

**Program:** n/a  
**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia  
**Topic:** Brisbane Airport Corporation input  
**Proof Hansard Page:** 64 (22 March 2021)

**Senator Anthony Chisholm asked:**

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**Mr Harfield:** I have to take that on notice to go back. Having parallel runways has been around for Brisbane for 20 years, so that sort of decision was made at that stage. The difference between dependent and independent parallel runways is the distance between the runways and how they operate. When they are a certain distance apart, such as in Sydney, where they're only about just over a kilometre apart, they have to be operated in what we call a 'dependent mode', which means that they are treated as one runway: if you have aircraft on final, you have to stagger them—even though, technically, they are on different runways—because the runways are treated as one. When they are independent, you can operate them as two separate runways. That's the difference between 'dependent' and 'independent'. So I would have to go back and check, because that's not a recent decision.

**Answer:**

Brisbane Airport Corporation determined the location, orientation and mode of operation of their parallel runways through their Master Planning and Major Development Plan process.