

Question on notice no. 189

Portfolio question number: SQ23-003784

2023-24 Budget estimates

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

Senator Dean Smith: asked the Civil Aviation Safety Authority on 23 May 2023—

Senator DEAN SMITH: We can pursue this in a private briefing if the minister is so inclined. What has CASA done since in the detail? Has CASA taken the initiative to speak to the family?

Ms Spence: No. We haven't.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Has the family requested an opportunity to speak to CASA?

Ms Spence: Not that I'm aware of.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Mr Walker?

Mr Walker: Not that I am aware of, no.

Ms Spence: I totally agree that it is a tragedy. We would like to make sure that they understand what happened and why we are taking our responsibility seriously.

Senator DEAN SMITH: I think yes, I agree, Ms Spence—what happened and future remedies and future mitigation.

Ms Spence: Yes.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Absolutely. Assistant Minister, congratulations on your additional responsibilities. Will the minister make herself available to meet with the family to discuss how these sorts of terrible incidents can be mitigated against in the future?

Senator Chisholm: I am sure the minister would make herself available if that were appropriate.

Senator DEAN SMITH: My last question goes to something I saw in some previous ATSB reports in terms of doing some due diligence on this matter. I understand that there is a section on what has been done as a result. Is that a regular feature of ATSB reports? Is it an ATSB responsibility or a CASA responsibility?

Ms Spence: I think they tend to report after the accident. We provide them with information that they would include in their report to say actions that have been taken to address the issues that they have identified.

Senator DEAN SMITH: And CASA did provide information to the ATSB on this matter for this report?

Ms Spence: This predates my tenure in the organisation. I would have to check. I assume that we would have.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Mr Walker?

Mr Walker: It likewise predates my tenure in this role.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Mr Monahan?

Mr Monahan: It predates me as well.

Mr Marcelja: As a matter of course, we typically do. While we will check the detail for you, we typically do.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Yes. That is my understanding as a matter of course. My question goes to whether that matter of course continued in this instance. Thank you

very much, Chair. Thank you, Ms Spence, and other officials for that. We will absolutely take up the opportunity to meet with the family. It is a tragic set of circumstances. Could you take on notice whether or not CASA will release that report and/or have it peer reviewed? I appreciate that. Thanks very much for your time.

Answer —

Please find answer attached.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 2023 - 2024

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Question Number: 189

Departmental Question Number: SQ23-003784

Division/Agency Name: Agency - Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 133-134 (23 May 2023)

Topic: CASA – Information provided to ATSB for the report

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Answer:

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) provided all requested information to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) throughout the course of the investigation of the Robinson R44 helicopter, VH-NBY, accident near Broome Airport, Western Australia on 4 July 2020.

This particular report did not include a 'what has been done as a result' section. The presentation of ATSB reports are the responsibility of the ATSB.