

**Question on notice no. 68**

**Portfolio question number: SQ24-000070**

**2023-24 Additional estimates**

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

**Senator the Hon. Matthew Canavan:** asked the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts on 12 February 2024—

Senator McKENZIE: Have you let the minister know that this is the department's decision, Mr Betts?

Mr Betts: I think it's now on the public record, so this will be wrapped up in their wider consideration of the full process.

Senator Chisholm: Based on the timing, it did expire under the previous government if the dates were correct.

Senator CANAVAN: I'm making it very clear. I think, from the evidence we've received, that it doesn't sound like it's been an explicit decision of the minister-if we can trust the advice and evidence we've been provided with here. The department said they'd made the decision to not comply with this particular act. I just want to be very clear: has the department, at any time, advised the minister or written to this minister or a minister in the previous government-

Senator McKENZIE: Any minister-not Catherine King but the minister in the previous government.

Senator CANAVAN: to say, 'We know that section 66

(1) of this act says "this", but we've decided "this".' Has that happened?

Ms Purvis-Smith: I'd have to take that on notice.

**Answer —**

Please find answer attached

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Additional Estimates 2023 - 2024**

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

**Committee Question Number: 68**

**Departmental Question Number: SQ24-000070**

**Division/Agency Name: DIV - Domestic Aviation and Reform**

**Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 105 (12 February 2024)**

**Topic: Compliance Committee for Sydney Airport – advice to the Minister regarding decision to not instate the compliance committee**

**Senator Matthew Canavan asked:**

Senator MCKENZIE: Have you let the minister know that this is the department's decision, Mr Betts?

Mr Betts: I think it's now on the public record, so this will be wrapped up in their wider consideration of the full process.

Senator Chisholm: Based on the timing, it did expire under the previous government if the dates were correct.

Senator CANAVAN: I'm making it very clear. I think, from the evidence we've received, that it doesn't sound like it's been an explicit decision of the minister—if we can trust the advice and evidence we've been provided with here. The department said they'd made the decision to not comply with this particular act. I just want to be very clear: has the department, at any time, advised the minister or written to this minister or a minister in the previous government—

Senator MCKENZIE: Any minister—not Catherine King but the minister in the previous government.

Senator CANAVAN: to say, 'We know that section 66(1) of this act says "this", but we've decided "this".' Has that happened?

Ms Purvis-Smith: I'd have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Effective from 20 May 2024, members were appointed to reinstate the Compliance Committee for Sydney Airport.

The last appointments to the Compliance Committee expired in 2020. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts has not located any records indicating that the department advised any minister that a decision had been taken that the membership of the Compliance Committee would not be reappointed or replaced.

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](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/aviation/airports/reforms-sydney-airport-demand-management-framework).