

Question on notice no. 210

Portfolio question number: 238

2018-19 Budget estimates

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities Portfolio

Senator Chris Ketter: asked the Civil Aviation Safety Authority on 22 May 2018—

Senator KETTER: I have a follow-up question. The issue that gave rise to the problem is the manpower shortage at Townsville Airport, as I understand it. Was that investigated as part of CASA's processes, and what was the result of that? Has that been rectified?

Mr Crawford: That would ultimately be a matter for the SMS at Qantas. Their safety management system should follow-up on that. What we do is we review the effectiveness of their SMS.

Senator KETTER: Sorry, I can't hear you, Mr Crawford.

Mr Crawford: That should have been followed up with the operator's safety management system. What we do is we do surveillance on the operator; we look at the effectiveness of their safety management system.

Senator KETTER: Is the answer to my question that-

Mr Crawford: The issue is that, at the end of the day, we cannot determine from the photograph taken at the other airport whether that tyre was serviceable or not. We can't be looking at that photograph. But the maintenance engineer says that the tyre was safe to go, so he is saying it was serviceable. That's what we have to work with.

Senator KETTER: That's not the issue I'm raising. I'm talking about the assertion in that log that there were manpower shortages which gave rise to the fact that the tyre couldn't be changed.

Mr Crawford: We'll take that on notice.

Answer —

The information requested has been provided to the Committee under a covering letter from the CASA Chief Executive Officer and Director of Aviation Safety of 8 June 2018.