

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 01

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports Division

Topic: Adelaide and Sydney Noise Attenuation Programs

Hansard Page: 3 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—And what the cost of these works are?

Mr Mrdak—It does not have the cost of the works. I can provide that for you, though, if you would like the breakdown of costs to date against each category.

Senator O'BRIEN—Yes, that would be good.

Mr Mrdak—I will take that on notice, if that is okay.

Answer:

During the financial year 2005-06, in Sydney, \$1,479,446.30 will be spent from the program on schools and of \$822,751.47 on churches. No funds will be expended on residential properties or other public buildings, as all eligible properties in these categories were completed by the end of the previous financial year.

In Adelaide, \$761,974.76 will have been expended on churches. Preliminary work has also begun on a medical facility, although no funds will have been expended from the program during 2005-06. As with Sydney, no funds will be expended on residential properties or other public buildings, as all eligible properties in these categories were completed by the end of the previous financial year.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 02

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Adelaide and Sydney Noise Attenuation Programs

Hansard Page: 3 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—And could you also let us know how much will be expended on the administration of the programs as opposed to the work itself in each case, for Adelaide and Sydney?

Mr Mrdak—The administration in terms of departmental costs?

Senator O'BRIEN—Yes.

Mr Mrdak—Yes, certainly.

Answer:

During 2005-06, the Department expended \$126,904.23 on the departmental administration of the Adelaide and Sydney programs. As both programs are administered concurrently by the same team, it is not possible to further break these figures down.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 03

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Perth Airport Lease

Hansard Page: 5 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Can the Department table the Administrator's version of the Perth Airport Lease?

Mr Williams—I will take that on notice. I do not, in principle, see a problem with that. I do not think there is much commentary, from memory, in relation to this issue.

Mr Mrdak—We will come back to you on that one.

Answer:

The Administrator's version of the lease is an internal document prepared by the Government's legal advisers to provide the Department with some guidance in relation to the interpretation of some clauses in the lease. The Minister is not prepared to release the document as it is subject to legal professional privilege.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 04

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Belmont City Council – Request to Meet with Minister

Hansard Page: 6 (23/05/06)

Senator O’Brien asked:

Senator O’BRIEN—How long ago was the request made?

Mr Williams—I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The City of Belmont (‘the City’) formally requested a meeting with Minister Truss on the rates equivalent issue on 29 June 2006. The City did request a meeting with departmental officers in early May 2006. The Department has arranged to meet with the City in July 2006.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 05

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Belmont City Council – Request to Meet with Minister

Hansard Page: 6 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Has the Minister indicated anything to the Belmont City Council about whether he is prepared to meet with them?

Mr Williams—Again, I would have to take that on notice. I am not aware.

Answer:

Refer to question **AAA 04**.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 06

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Meeting between Minister and Westralia Airports Corporation

Hansard Page: 7(23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—You are petulant child sometimes. When Mr Truss has met with representatives of the Westralia Airports Corporation, has the matter of the dispute over rate equivalent payments been discussed?

Mr Mrdak—I do not know if it is appropriate for us to be commenting on discussions that take place between the Minister and the Parties. I am happy to take that on notice, but certainly the Minister discussed a whole range of matters in relation to the operation of the airport.

Answer:

Minister Truss met with representatives of Westralia Airports Corporation on 28 March 2006 and 9 June 2006. Amongst a range of matters, the matter of the dispute over rate equivalent payments was discussed.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 07

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Australian Mayoral Aviation Council – Request to Meet with Minister

Hansard Page: 7 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Do I understand you to say that the Minister has not responded to that request?

Answer:

The Australian Mayoral Aviation Council (AMAC) only recently requested a meeting with the Minister on 2 May 2006. Departmental officers have arranged to meet representatives from the City of Belmont, the City of West Torrens and AMAC in July 2006.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 08

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Rate Equivalent Payments – Legal Advice Sought by the Commonwealth

Hansard Pages: 7-8 (23/05/06)

Senator Johnston asked:

Mr Mrdak—That was correct at the time of answering that question. We have now recently sought senior counsel's advice on the matters raised by the parties. We have recently received that senior counsel advice and, as Mr Williams has indicated, we are now in the process of providing advice to the Minister on this matter.

Senator JOHNSTON—Would you be able to table that advice for the benefit of Senators?

Mr Mrdak—The advice is from the Australian Government's Solicitor. I am not in a position to table that at this stage. I am happy to take that on notice. That would be a matter for the Minister after he has considered it. We have not had the opportunity at this stage to brief and discuss the advice with the Minister. The Minister may choose to not release the information based on legal privilege and the like in the advice involved, but I will take that up with the Minister.

Senator JOHNSTON—The reason I ask is because the advice concerns a lessee and the obligations of a lessee pursuant to a lease. The Commonwealth is not exposed to any liability whatsoever with respect to rates by the contract or in its position as the Crown in right of the Commonwealth, so legal professional privilege arguably would not apply to that advice. It is simply looking at the position of the lessee pursuant to clause 24 and an interpretation of that clause from the lessee's perspective. In other words, what is the liability of the lessee? I would have thought that it was a document which is able to be tabled because it is not a matter going to the position or liability of the Commonwealth, to my understanding, unless you can tell me any different.

Mr Mrdak—It is a very comprehensive, broad ranging piece of advice which has examined the Commonwealth's position from the time at which we drafted these clauses and the like. I understand the point you are making. I have to take it on notice and seek advice in relation to this matter from my Minister and from counsel.

Answer:

The Minister is not prepared to table the advice to which legal professional privilege attaches.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 09

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Report of the Review of the Airports Act

Hansard Page: 11 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Yes. How many individuals or organisations that made submissions to the review requested confidentiality?

Mr Williams—I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Of the 61 submissions received during the course of the review of the *Airports Act 1996*, 19 respondents requested that their submission not be made be made publicly-available.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 10

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Report of the Review of the Airports Act

Hansard Page: 11 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Did the Minister accept all the recommendations in the report?

Mr Williams—Again, I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

No.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 11

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Canberra Airport – Rates-Equivalent Payments

Hansard Page: 14 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—In relation to the issue we were discussing earlier—the Perth Airport-Belmont Council dispute about rates-equivalent payments, can you inform the Committee of the arrangements for paying these charges in the case of Canberra Airport?

Mr Williams—I would have to take that on notice, Senator. They do have an equivalent clause in the lease but I am not sure how the rates system in the ACT operates.

Mr Mrdak—They do have an agreement with the ACT Government, but we will get some details of that.

Answer:

The ACT Legislative Assembly has power to make laws imposing rates on land in the ACT which is owned by the Commonwealth. Under the *Rates Act 2004* (ACT), rates are payable by a registered proprietor of an interest in the relevant parcel of land. Rates are imposed on Canberra Airport land and are payable by Canberra International Airport Pty. Ltd. as the Lessee.

There is also a contractual obligation on the Lessee to pay relevant rates under the Canberra Airport Lease (clause 26.1).

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 12

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Damage to Canberra Runway

Hansard Page: 15 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Was the Canberra runway damaged in any way during the 2003 Visit to Australia by President George W. Bush?

Mr Mrdak—I would have to check damage as such. Certainly, any operations by heavy aircraft do have an impact on pavement; hence dispensations are required to exceed pavement runway strength. My understanding is that the airport has not issued pavement concessions to permit large aircraft since 2003—

Answer:

The Commonwealth has been advised by Canberra International Airport Pty Ltd that rutting in the runway pavement was attributable to recurrent overloading of the runway over a long period of time by aircraft that exceeded the strength rating of the pavement and is not attributable to any one aircraft. The rutting in the runway was evident prior to the Visit by President George W. Bush.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 13

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Canberra Airport

Hansard Page: 17 (22/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Is Canberra considered one of the eastern seaboard airports for the purposes of the Pacific route?

Mr Mrdak—I would have to check. Is this under the Australia-US agreement?

Senator O'BRIEN—Yes.

Mr Mrdak—I think it provides for all points in Australia. I would need to check.

Answer:

Yes. Under the Air Transport Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America of 3 December 1946, as amended, the United States of America has nominated Canberra as a port for its airlines to serve via another Australian port. However, if the United States of America chooses, it may nominate Canberra as a port to be served directly by its airlines.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question.: AAA 14

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Collection of Parking Fines by Airports

Hansard Page: 17 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Can we get a breakdown of the amount collected for each of those airports?

Mr Williams—Yes, we can take that on notice.

Answer:

The Airport Parking Infringement Notice revenue, by airport, for the 9 months ending 31 March 2006 are:

Sydney	\$319,584
Melbourne	\$480,411
Brisbane	\$144,784
Perth	\$11,810
Gold Coast	\$47,339
Townsville	\$6,365
Hobart	\$7,380
Launceston	\$0 *

* With Australia Pacific Airports operating both Melbourne and Launceston Airports, the monies collected at Launceston Airport are included in the Melbourne Airport figures. The Department is unable to disaggregate the figures.

Revised answer (13/07/06):

Airport Parking Infringement Notice collections, by airport, for the 9 months ending 31 March 2006 are:

Sydney	\$319,584
Melbourne	\$480,411
Brisbane	\$144,874
Perth	\$26,617
Gold Coast	\$47,339
Townsville	\$6,365
Hobart	\$7,480
Launceston	\$0 *

* With Australia Pacific Airports operating both Melbourne and Launceston Airports, the monies collected at Launceston Airport are included in the Melbourne Airport figures. The Department is unable to disaggregate the figures.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 15

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Canberra Airport Runway

Hansard Page: 20 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Going back to Mr Truss's Press Release of 27 February about the strengthening of the airport runway, Mr Truss's words were, 'The strengthening will enhance Canberra's capacity to host VIP dignitaries and guests of the Australian Government.' I want to find out the basis for the statement. If you do not know, can you get an answer from Mr Truss which VIPs, dignitaries and guests of the Australian Government have avoided Canberra due to the runway?

Mr Williams—As I said before, I think that is a question best addressed to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Senator O'BRIEN—It may be, but the Minister's own Press Release makes that point. That is why I think the Minister needs to answer that question.

Mr Mrdak—We will take that on notice. As I say, there have been occasions to my knowledge where it has created difficulties for Australia's official hosting of certain dignitaries and alternative arrangements have had to be made, but I will seek further information on those matters.

Answer:

Visits by VIPs, dignitaries and guests of the Australian Government are coordinated by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet or the Department of Defence. The Department of Transport and Regional Services is not involved in the organisation of these Visits.

Revised answer 08/08/2006:

Visits by VIPs, dignitaries and guests of the Australian Government are co-ordinated by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) or the Department of Defence. The Department of Transport and Regional Services is not involved in the organisation of these Visits.

PM&C have advised that, where there are limitations on an airport's ability to accommodate certain aircraft, alternative arrangements may be made including the use of different aircraft, or a change in venue. As this issue is raised early in the Visit planning process, no formal record of any VIPs, dignitaries and guests of the Australian Government who have avoided Canberra due to the runway, is available.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 16

Division/Agency: Department of Transport and Regional Services

Topic: Delay in Response to Question

Hansard Page: 20 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—I want to begin by going to the e-mail that the former Minister for Transport and Regional Services, Mr Anderson, sent to the head of CASA, Mr Toller, on 3 April 2003 relating to the reform of the National Airspace System. Before I go to the detail of the e-mail, can you tell me why it took almost seven months—that is, from 31 October 2005 to 16 May 2006 for CASA or the Department to respond to my question about this correspondence?

Mr Byron—That is one for the Department, Senator. The matter was under consideration as to whether the documentation would be released. That was a decision which had to be taken by the Minister.

Senator O'BRIEN—On what date was the draft answer provided to the Minister's office?

Mr Mrdak—I would have to take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

The draft answer was initially provided to the Minister's Office on 14 December 2005 and re-submitted to the Minister's Office on 2 February 2006.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 17

Division/Agency: Aviation & Airports

Topic: Correspondence from former Minister of Transport

Hansard Page: 21 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

We will come to that. Did Mr Toller ignore the e-mail?

Mr Gemmell—Certainly not, Senator.

Senator O'BRIEN—Did he respond to Mr Anderson in writing?

Mr Gemmell—Yes, he did.

Senator O'BRIEN—Can we have a copy of that correspondence?

Mr Gemmell—I would like to refer that to the Minister.

Answer:

A copy of the correspondence is **attached**.

[AAA17 attachment]

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 18

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Correspondence from Former Minister of Transport – Resultant Meeting

Hansard Page: 23 (23/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked: Mr Mrdak, Mr Gemmell's record—or Mr Matthews's record, as it turns out to be—shows that he intended to speak to Airservices Australia on the Monday after that meeting. Did that happen?

Mr Mrdak—I am not aware of the events involved. I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Refer to response for Question Number **AA 01**.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 19

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Kerbside Set-down and Pick-up Procedures

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Hogg asked:

Who holds the responsibility for determining who can set down and pick up at airport kerbsides?

Answer:

The management of passenger terminal kerbside parking is the responsibility of individual airport operators.

There are no provisions in the *Airports Act 1996*, the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004* or the *Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005* that specifically address the issue of kerbside parking or specifically prohibit the practice of terminal kerbside set-downs or pick-ups.

The 11 *Counter-Terrorist First Response Airports (CTFR)* (Sydney, Coolangatta, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Alice Springs, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra) have security measures relating to the management of unattended vehicles in close proximity to the terminal in their Transport Security Programs.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 20

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Kerbside Set-down and Pick-up Procedures

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Hogg asked:

Specifically, who holds the responsibility for Canberra airport?

Answer:

The airport operator, Canberra International Airport Pty Ltd, is ultimately responsible for kerbside management at Canberra Airport.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 21

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Kerbside Set-down and Pick-up Procedures

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Hogg asked:

Are pick-ups allowed at kerbside? If so, by whom and when?

Answer:

The following table details the arrangements for the 11 *Counter-Terrorist First Response Airports* (CTFR).

Airport	Are Pick-ups Allowed?	Any exemptions?
Adelaide	Yes (for up to 2 minutes only – car to be attended at all times)	Some limited exemptions on a case by case by arrangement with the airport*
Alice Springs	Yes	n/a
Brisbane	<u>Domestic</u> No (although pick ups allowed at designated passenger road about 30m from domestic terminal entrance). <u>International</u> Yes (for up to 2minutes – car to be attended at all times)	Some limited exemptions on a case by case by arrangement with the airport*
Canberra	No	Some limited exemptions on a case by case by arrangement with the airport*
Cairns	Yes (for up to 2 minutes only – car to be attended at all times)	Some limited exemptions on a case by case by arrangement with the airport*
Coolangatta	Yes (for up to 2 minutes only – car to be attended at all times)	Some limited exemptions on a case by case by arrangement with the airport*
Darwin	No (although pick ups allowed on a parallel road 35m from the terminal for up to 2 minutes – car to be attended at all times)	Some limited exemptions on a case by case by arrangement with the airport*
Hobart	No	Some limited exemptions on a case by case by arrangement with the airport*

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Melbourne	Yes (car to be attended at all times)	Some limited exemptions on a case by case by arrangement with the airport*
Perth	Yes (for up to 2 minutes only – car to be attended at all times)	Some limited exemptions on a case by case by arrangement with the airport*
Sydney	T1 (<u>International Terminal</u>) No T2&3 (<u>Domestic Terminals</u>) Yes (car to be attended at all times and passenger must be at the kerbside)	Some limited exemptions on a case by case arrangement with the airport*

* varies from airport to airport, but example categories include VIPs, high level military personnel, Australian Federal Police, buses, disabled people, some delivery trucks. Arrangements for taxi's also vary from airport to airport, but generally allow pick at the kerbside.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 22

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Kerbside Set down and Pick up Procedures

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Hogg asked:

If there are exemptions to the general exclusion that applies to the general public at large, what category or categories are exempt?

Answer

Refer to the answer for **AAA 21**.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 23

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Kerbside Set-down and Pick-up Procedures

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Hogg asked:

Are specific people excluded? If so, whom?

Answer:

Refer to response to **AAA 21**.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 24

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Kerbside Set-down and Pick-up Procedures

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Hogg asked:

If some exemptions are allowed, what security risk does this bring forward to the travelling public at large?

Answer:

Relatively few exemptions are granted. These are assessed on a case-by-case basis by the airport operators. The airport operators have responsibility for considering the security risk when granting any exemptions to their own kerbside parking arrangements.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 25

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

With reference to the answer to Senate Question on Notice **1471** which contains this statement:

The Minister is of the view that Mr Byron has complied with the general intent of the requirements of the terms and conditions of his appointment.

What does "general intent" mean?

Answer:

“General intent” means that the Minister for Transport and Regional Services is of the view that Mr Byron has complied with the broad purpose and objectives of the terms and conditions of his appointment.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 26

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Did the Minister approve the answer?

Answer:

Yes, the Minister for Transport and Regional Services approved the answer on 4 April 2006.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 27

Division/Agency: Aviation and Airports

Topic: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Has the Minister or his office discussed with Mr Byron any concerns about Mr Byron's compliance with his contract?

Answer:

The Minister for Transport and Regional Services meets regularly with Mr Byron. At these meetings, a broad range of issues are discussed including the regulation reform agenda, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority's performance and significant safety issues.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Transport and Regional Services

Question: AAA 28

Division/Agency: Department of Transport and Regional Services

Topic: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator O'Brien asked:

Is the Minister fully satisfied with Mr Byron's compliance?

Answer:

See answers to **AAA 25** and Senate Question on Notice **1471** tabled on 9 May 2006 attached.

[AAA 28 attachment]