

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 01

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Standard operating procedures of air traffic control towers

**Hansard Page:** 75 (28/05/06)

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

**Senator O'BRIEN**—What are the standard operating procedures where weather conditions may be difficult and flights have not arrived? Is there some procedural instruction about that?

**Mr Russell**—In those circumstances, where the tower is closed the airspace would normally defer to what is called G class airspace where air crews self-separate by talking to each other to ensure that aircraft are separated, and that is a procedure that occurs generally where aircraft arrive after towers or in non-towered aerodromes, and we have some of them in Australia.

**Senator O'BRIEN**—How many incidents like this have occurred in recent times at any of the airports where-

**Mr Russell**—I would have to take that on notice. I watch our daily operations on a day-to-day basis and I have to say that they are rare. They do occur from time to time, particularly when aircraft are off schedule. It is something I am more than happy to come back to you on.

**Answer:**

Since 1 January 2007, a similar incident occurred at Alice Springs.

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 03

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Air traffic controllers – sick leave

**Hansard Page:** 81 (28/05/06)

**Senator McGauran asked:**

**Senator McGAURAN**—Yes. Still on the Friday, 4 April, peak hour in Sydney with only half the air traffic controllers. You would think they would have had the decency not to call in sick on a Friday, but anyway. That was their call.

**Senator Conroy**—You do not even turn up.

**Senator McGAURAN**—How much notice did they give, by the way?

**Mr Russell**—I can check the details, but it was fairly short notice.

**Answer:**

- (a) Controller starting shift at 1.00pm called at 9.00am (4 hours)
- (b) Controller starting shift at 2.00pm called between 9.00am-10.00am - specific time not recorded (4-5 hours)
- (c) Controller starting shift at 3.00pm called at 11.10am (3 hours, 50 minutes)

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 04

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Air traffic controllers – sick leave

**Hansard Page:** 82 (28/05/06)

**Senator McGauran asked:**

**Senator McGAURAN**—Although on 4 April that disgraceful event occurred where half the air traffic controllers called in sick, apparently the greatest incidence of sick leave is in Melbourne. Is that true?

**Ms Fleming**—For single day absences?

**Senator McGAURAN**—Sick leave, calling in for sick leave.

**Ms Fleming**—I could not tell you. I am sorry. We would have to come back with that.

**Senator McGAURAN**—Can you?

**Mr Russell**—I cannot. But we are happy to take that and any other questions on notice, if you like.

**Senator McGAURAN**—Can you provide the total figure, and an airport figure, of the sick leave taken from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane Perth, Adelaide and Darwin?

**Mr Russell**—We do not provide air traffic control for the airport in Darwin; it is a military airport. For the ones that we operate, yes, I can provide that information.

**Senator McGAURAN**—That is sick leave?

**Senator McGAURAN**—Could you break it up according to the days taken off?

**Ms Fleming**—We can certainly break it up by single day absences compared with absences that are longer, two or three weeks even. We class long-term sick leave, which is another whole area which requires case management, et cetera, at three weeks and above. We do break it down into the short-term, single days and then the long term. We can do that.

**Senator McGAURAN**—As an average per worker?

**Ms Fleming**—Yes, we could do that.

**Senator McGAURAN**—As a percentage of working days lost; percentage to working days?

**Ms Fleming**—Yes, we normally record it by day. The air traffic controllers are all shift workers.

**Senator McGAURAN**—So that we see how many days are lost in sick leave, a ratio?

**Ms Fleming**—Yes.

**Senator McGAURAN**—An average per employee? We have established that it is an unlimited entitlement. I would like the total number and the total according to each airport so that we can establish the days lost.

**Answer:**

A document setting out the details requested is attached.

[AA 04 attachment]

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 05

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Affiliation with the ACTU

**Hansard Page:** 82 (28/05/06)

**Senator McGauran asked:**

**Senator McGAURAN**—This is a union problem. It is part of the certified agreement.

**Senator Conroy**—Are they even affiliated to the ACTU?

**Senator McGAURAN**—Are they? Mr Russell, are they? It is irrelevant whether they are or are not.

**Mr Russell**—I am not aware. I do not know.

**Senator McGAURAN**—'No' you do not know?

**Mr Russell**—I am sorry, I do not know.

**Senator McGAURAN**—The minister asked the question so I am interested to know whether they are. Can you please take that on notice?

**Mr Russell**—Yes, we will.

**Answer:**

The Civil Air Operations Operators Association of Australia is affiliated with the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 06

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** ANEF noise level forecast

**Hansard Page:** 87 (28/05/06)

**Senator Fisher asked:**

**Senator FISHER**—I am sorry, no. What did the ANEF forecast in respect of noise levels?

**Mr Dudley**—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the exact figures in front of me.

**Answer:**

A document setting out the details requested is attached.

[AA 06 attachment]

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 07

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** ANEF – manner of endorsement

**Hansard Page:** 87 (28/05/06)

**Senator Fisher asked:**

**Mr Dudley**—Also there were two issues that we wanted clarity on in regard to the proponent's, Canberra International Airport's, ANEF process and we have received one clarification back from Canberra International Airport and we are seeking just clarification on one outstanding issue.

**Senator FISHER**—What are those two aspects on which you sought clarification from Canberra Airport?

**Mr Dudley**—I would have to take those on notice.

**Answer:**

The two aspects that we sought clarification on related to the 'manner of endorsement' of Australian Noise Exposure Forecasts (ANEF) approved by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

These were:

- (i) That the forecast numbers of aircraft movements, operating times and the aircraft types carrying out operations are not greater than the physical ultimate capacity of the existing or proposed runway/s using accepted and published methodologies; and
- (ii) That the proponent has demonstrated it has paid due regard to all issues raised by State and Local Government authorities in relation to the ANEF.

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 08

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** E-Change program

**Hansard Page:** 89 (28/05/06)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—An E-Change program has an independent audit. Has that happened or is that something that is planned for the future? What is the status with the audit?

**Mr Dudley**—If I understand the question correctly, the audit is a consultancy piece of work, where we are auditing - and part of the reason I can quote the 58,000 tonne footprint is we have audited to date what our exact carbon footprint is and what is generated from that carbon footprint.

**Senator NASH**—Is that an in-house thing or is that publicly available?

**Mr Dudley**—It was an in-house thing for our in-house consultancy that was undertaken for us to establish it.

**Mr Russell**—We could provide it.

**Senator NASH**—If you can provide it that would be great.

**Answer:**

The requested report is **attached**.

**[AA 08 attachment]**

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 09

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Air traffic controllers – absenteeism

**Hansard Page:** 89, 91 (28/05/06)

**Senator McGauran asked:**

**Senator McGAURAN**—Is it true that absentees have increased in the Melbourne centre - absenteeism, as distinct from sick leave - and it has conveniently coincided with the Airservices decision to change the night shift staffing procedures in low volume sectors controlled from Melbourne?

**Mr Russell**—Ms Fleming, would you take that or would you like to take it on notice?

**Ms Fleming**—I could take that on notice. I do not have the figures in front of me, but we can bring them back to you.

**Senator McGAURAN**—You see no link in the almost immediate increase in absenteeism in the Melbourne centre to the changing of the night shift procedures?

**Mr Russell**—No, I did not say that. I said that I can see no evidence of a concerted campaign and we will come back to you on the question of the absenteeism numbers post that change.

**Answer:**

A document setting out the details requested is **attached**.

[AA 09 attachment]



**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 10

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Appointments made since 24 November 2007

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2008: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government?

**Answer:**

Refer to CORP 12.

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 11

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** A list of Quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) in the Portfolio

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

**Answer:**

Refer to CORP 13.

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 12

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic: Programs, Initiatives and other undertakings to be carried forward**

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

In relation to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:

- a) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government?
- b) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government?
- c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?

**Answer:**

The Government has made various decisions, including in the Budget context, about the establishment of new programs and initiatives, and changes and terminations to existing programs and initiatives. These are detailed in Portfolio Budget Statements, including for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. There are no programs in the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio that are implemented or allocated differentially on the basis of Federal electorates.

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2008  
**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Question:** AA 13

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** ALP Website- Election Promises -Rudd Government

**Hansard Page:** Written question

**Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:**

Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website <http://www.alp.org.au/> constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd Government within the following portfolios: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?

**Answer:**

As indicated in previous answers on this issue (answer to Questions on Notice 153 to 188 of 12 February 2008), the election commitments made by Federal Labor are on the public record. Those measures implementing commitments that are funded through Budget appropriations to the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government portfolio are detailed in the Departments' Portfolio Budget Statements.