

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October/November 2005

Transport and Regional Services

Question no: AA 01

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Contract to operate FAA towers

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Heffernan's Q1)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Is it true that Airservices has won the contract to operate contract towers to the FAA in Hawaii?

Answer:

Yes. Airservices Pacific Incorporated (API), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Airservices Australia, operates 5 towers, which includes three in the Hawaiian Islands and one each in Saipan and Guam, on behalf of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under the Federal Contract Tower program.

Question no: AA 02

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Contract to Operate FAA Towers

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Heffernan's Q2)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Is it true that the FAA claims that their contract tower program saves about 50% on towers run by the FAA?

Answer:

Airservices Australia is aware of the claim made by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). However, Airservices Australia is unable to comment on the basis of this claim.

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Transport and Regional Services

Question no: AA 03

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Competition for contract towers

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Heffernan's Q 3)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Is it true that Airservices Australia have stated that competition for contract towers in Australia should not be allowed as safety would be reduced?

Answer:

No. Airservices Australia is supportive of the Government's policy to introduce competition for towers.

Question no: AA 04

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Country control towers

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Heffernan's Q 4)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Why won't Airservices Australia facilitate and support local ownership and competition for country control towers so that costs can be reduced?

Answer:

Airservices Australia is supportive of the Government's policy to introduce competition for towers.

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Transport and Regional Services

Question no: AA 05

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Information technology outsourcing arrangements

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Conroy's Q 1 and 2)

Senator Conroy asked:

Please provide details of total departmental/organisational spending on information and communications technology (ICT) products and services during the last 12 months.

Please break down this spending by ICT function (e.g. communications, security, private network, websites).

Answer:

Airservices Australia is not a budget-funded agency therefore the information technology outsourcing arrangements are not applicable.

Question no: AA 06

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Information technology outsourcing arrangements

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Conroy's Q 3)

Senator Conroy asked:

Was this spending in line with budget forecasts for this 12-month period?

- a. If not, please provide details of:
 - i. The extent that information and communications technology (ICT) spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12-month period;
 - ii. Details of specific ICT contracts which resulted in the department/organisation spending in excess of budget forecasts for this 12-month period;
 - iii. The reasons ICT spending exceeded budget forecasts for this 12-month period.

Answer:

Airservices Australia is not a budget-funded agency therefore the information technology outsourcing arrangements are not applicable.

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Question no: AA 07

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Information technology outsourcing arrangements

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Conroy's Q 4)

Senator Conroy asked:

Please provide details of any information and communications technology (ICT) projects that have been commissioned by the department/organisation during the past 12 months that have failed to meet designated project time frames (i.e. have failed to satisfy agreed milestones by agreed dates).

- a. For such projects that were not completed on schedule, please provide details of:
 - i. The extent of any delay;
 - ii. The reasons these projects were not completed on time; and
 - iii. Any contractual remedies sought by the department/organisation as a result of these delays (e.g. penalty payments).

Answer:

Airservices Australia is not a budget-funded agency therefore the information technology outsourcing arrangements are not applicable.

Question no: AA 08

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Information technology outsourcing arrangements

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Conroy's Q 5)

Senator Conroy asked:

Please provide details of any information and communications technology (ICT) projects delivered in the past 12 months that have materially failed to satisfy project specifications.

Answer:

Airservices Australia is not a budget-funded agency therefore the information technology outsourcing arrangements are not applicable.

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Question no: AA 09

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Information technology outsourcing arrangements

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Conroy's Q 6)

Senator Conroy asked:

Please provide details of any ICT projects that were abandoned by the department/organisation within the last 12 months before the delivery of all project specifications outlined at the time the project was commissioned.

- a. For such abandoned projects, please provide details of:
 - i. Any contractual remedies sought by the department as a result of the abandonment of these projects;
 - ii. Any costs of re-tendering the ICT project.

Answer:

Airservices Australia is not a budget-funded agency therefore the information technology outsourcing arrangements are not applicable.

Question no: AA 10

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Travel

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Fielding's Q 1)

Senator Fielding asked:

How much money has the portfolio spent on **domestic** airfares for each of the last three financial years?

Answer:

Amounts spent on domestic airfares for Airservices staff for the past three financial years are as follows:

FY 02/03	\$3.265m
FY 03/04	\$3.580m
FY 04/05	\$4.234m

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Question no: AA 11

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Travel

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Fielding's Q 2)

Senator Fielding asked:

How much money has the portfolio spent on **overseas** airfares for each of the last three financial years?

Answer:

Amounts spent on overseas airfares for Airservices staff for the past three financial years are as follows:

FY 02/03	\$0.812m
FY 03/04	\$0.808m
FY 04/05	\$1.249m

Question no: AA 12

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Travel

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Fielding's Q 3)

Senator Fielding asked:

How much money has the portfolio spent on **economy class domestic** airfares for each of the last three financial years?

Answer:

Amounts spent on economy class domestic airfares for Airservices staff for the past three financial years are as follows:

FY 02/03	\$2.947m
FY 03/04	\$3.204m
FY 04/05	\$3.595m

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Question no: AA 13

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Travel

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Fielding's Q 4)

Senator Fielding asked:

How much money has the portfolio spent on **business class domestic** airfares for each of the last three financial years?

Answer:

Amounts spent on business class domestic airfares for Airservices staff for the past three financial years are as follows:

FY 02/03	\$0.318m
FY 03/04	\$0.376m
FY 04/05	\$0.639m

Question no: AA 14

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Travel

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Fielding's Q 5)

Senator Fielding asked:

How much has the portfolio spent on **first class domestic** airfares for each of the last three financial years?

Answer:

The amount spent on first class domestic airfares for Airservices staff for the past three financial years as shown below is nil. First class domestic airfares are not used by Airservices Australia.

FY 02/03	\$0.00m
FY 03/04	\$0.00m
FY 04/05	\$0.00m

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Question no: AA 15

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Travel

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Fielding's Q 6)

Senator Fielding asked:

What would be the estimated financial year dollar-saving if all public servants in the Portfolio travelled economy class for flights of less than one and a half hours duration?

Answer:

Domestic travel for Airservices Australia staff is contracted to Qantas. This contract covers economy class travel and provides for business class travel for authorised senior executives. This contract has been negotiated to provide discounted travel in all classes, as such the exact potential savings figures are not able to be calculated.

Question no: AA 16

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Contract negotiations

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Murray's Q 1)

Senator Murray asked:

What guidance is provided to staff with responsibilities for contract negotiations specifically about the requirements of the Senate Order? If relevant guidance is not provided, please explain why this is the case.

Answer:

Airservices Australia is created under the *Air Services Act 1995* and subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. Consequently, Airservices Australia is not subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and therefore not subject to the Senate Order.

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Question no: AA 17

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Training

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Murray's Q 2)

Senator Murray asked:

What training and awareness sessions are provided, either in-house or through other training providers (e.g. DOFA, APS Commission or private firms) in respect of the Order? Please provide a list of the dates, the identity of the training providers and the content of the training that staff attended in 2005. If training and awareness sessions are not provided, please explain why this is the case.

Answer:

Airservices Australia is created under the *Air Services Act 1995* and subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. Consequently, Airservices Australia is not subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and therefore not subject to the Senate Order.

Question no: AA 18

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Commonwealth procurement guidelines

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Murray's Q 3)

Senator Murray asked:

Has the department/agency revised its procurement guidelines to incorporate the new Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines that took effect from 1 January 2005, particularly with respect to the confidentiality elements contained in those guidelines? If so, when did this occur and can a copy be provided? If not, what is the cause of the delay and when will the revision occur?

Answer:

Airservices Australia is created under the *Air Services Act 1995* and subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. Consequently, Airservices Australia is not subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and therefore not subject to the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.

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Question No.: AA 19

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: ANAO audits

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Murray's Q 4)

Senator Murray asked:

ANAO audits for the last three years have revealed a consistently low level of compliance across most agencies with DOFA's confidentiality criteria (February 2003) for determining whether commercial information should be protected as confidential. The ANAO's latest report on the Order (No.11 of 2005-2006, September 2005) states that departments and agencies need to give higher priority with this important requirement of the Senate Order.

- What specific measures have been or will be taken to address this problem, give it higher priority and raise compliance levels?
- What guidance and training are provided to staff about the confidentiality criteria and the four tests employed to determine whether information should be protected?
- What internal auditing or checking is performed to test compliance in this area? If none is performed, why not and is the Agency considering the adoption of internal controls and checks?

Answer:

Airservices Australia is created under the *Air Services Act 1995* and subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. Consequently, Airservices Australia is not subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and therefore not subject to the Senate Order.

Question No.: AA 20

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: The Senate Order

Hansard page: Written question (Senator Murray's Q 5)

Senator Murray asked:

What problems, if any, have the agency and/or relevant staff experienced in complying with the Senate Order? What is the nature and cause of any problems? What measures have been, or could be, adopted to address these concerns?

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Answer:

Airservices Australia is created under the *Air Services Act 1995* and subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. Consequently, Airservices Australia is not subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and therefore not subject to the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.