

**Question on notice no. 29**

**Portfolio question number: SQ26-000138**

**2025-26 Additional estimates**

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

**Senator Susan McDonald:** asked the Airservices Australia on 9 February 2026—

Senator McDONALD: Could I just ask a follow-up to that? I sat on the tarmac at Sydney airport for an hour the other day, and the crew told me it was because there was lightning within—I think it was—20 kilometres of the terminal, and so the terminal staff won't go out to do luggage and all that. That's for safety; I get that.

Mr Sharp: Correct.

Senator McDONALD: Who makes that decision?

Mr Sharp: There are actually sensors on the ground, and they actually pick up if there's a lightning threat within the area—

Senator McDONALD: At what distance?

Mr Sharp: and there are flashing lights that occur. As soon as those lights flash, anyone that's on the apron has to come off. Once the storm passes and the lightning is not being sensed any more, then the apron recommences. But that's an automated process.

Senator McDONALD: What distance is that from the terminal?

Mr Sharp: Sorry?

Senator CANAVAN: What's the radius?