

Question on notice no. 32

Portfolio question number: SQ26-000060

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[...] The other thing we started talking about was the poor weather event that happened over the Australia Day weekend. You had some data on flights; if you could provide that, please.

Mr Curran: Yes. If I may, just to confirm, as I said, we don't provide the services at Townsville, so our dataset is potentially imperfect but it will be very close. Over the Australia Day weekend that you referenced from the 24th to the 27th, Townsville Airport saw 92 arrivals, and there were three arrival flights that were cancelled. As I said, just prior to the suspension, the reason for those arrival flights being cancelled is unknown to us because we don't provide the services there. It may not have been due to weather; it may have been for various other reasons.

Senator McDONALD: What about departure flights? Do you have data on those?

Mr Curran: Again, this potentially would not be a perfect dataset, but we understand that there were two departures that were cancelled.

Senator McDONALD: So how will I get the information on that?

Mr Sharp: It could be that we could provide the details of these flights to you on notice, and perhaps you could seek a confirmation from the Department of Defence.

[...]

Senator McDONALD: On notice, provide the information that you've spoken about and see how much information you can get about the reasons for those cancelled flights. I shall attempt to ask Defence-thoughts and prayers with me.