

Question on notice no. 39

Portfolio question number: SQ26-000174

2025-26 Additional estimates

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

Senator the Hon. Matthew Canavan: asked the Airservices Australia on 19 February 2026—

(1. Minister King issued a directive to Airservices Australia to prioritise the use of SODPROPS (Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations) to reduce aircraft noise over populated areas with effect from 1 December 2024. What has Airservices Australia done to ensure it is meeting the requirements of this directive?

2. What is the current level of usage of SODPROPS at Brisbane Airport?

a. Provide this information broken down by daily, weekly and monthly figures for the past 12 months to end January 2026.

3. Evidence has been provided to me that this directive has resulted in an average of only 13 minutes usage per day for daytime operations (6am to 10pm) with an average of 4 aircraft using SODPROPS. Noting that the average total number of aircraft per day for Brisbane Airport in 2025 is reported as 590, why are there only 4 aircraft out of 590 (0.68%) flying over water rather than over houses during daytime hours (6am-10pm) ?

4. Why, some four years after the new runway opened in Brisbane, has Airservices Australia been ineffective in changing flight paths, using SODPROPS and the voluntary tailwind measure?

5. What resources are being deployed to fast track the implementation of flight paths set out in Package 3 of the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane?

6. There has been a claim made that there is a shortfall in the number of qualified Air Traffic Controllers at Brisbane Airport. Is this correct?

a. What has Airservices Australia done to increase the number of qualified ATCs and reduce absenteeism?

b. Is the lack of controllers directly resulting in more aircraft being directed to use the easiest routes available (that is over residential areas) ?

7. Has the Minister requested a review from Airservices Australia about the ongoing issues with aircraft noise and specifically the low usage of SODPROPS in Brisbane?

a. If yes, when was that request received? Please provide a copy.

b. What is the status of the response to this request?

8.Has there been any change to the arrival / departure times and/or flight paths for larger noisier aircraft? Specifically, I am aware that there had been a previous undertaking to seek a change to the late night / early morning departure and arrival of the EMIRATES A380.

a.Have you been working with Emirates to negotiate a change to their schedule? If not, why not?

b.If yes, what is the current status of this negotiation?

c.When will a change to this schedule take effect?

9.Does Airservices Australia respond to written noise complaints?

a.If not, why not?

b.If yes,

i.how many complaints have been received in the past 12 months to end January 2026?

ii.How long does it take (on average) to reply to complaints?

iii.Provide details by location (suburb) , with a breakdown of daily, weekly and monthly numbers over the past 12 months to end January 2026?