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Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 2025-2026

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Committee Question Number:

Departmental Question Number: SQ26-000258

Division/Agency Name: Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Hansard Reference: Written (20 February 2026)

Topic: Additional Estimates February 2026 - CASA - ATSB final report

Matt O'Sullivan asked:

1. I refer to the ATSB final report published in November 2025 regarding the two potential serious incidents at Melbourne airport in 2023. The two runway incursions occurred 11 days apart and involved the night takeoffs on runway 34 where it had temporarily been shortened. The two airlines involved in these incidents were Malaysian Airlines on 7 September 2023 with 235 passengers and Bamboo Airlines on 18 September 2023 with 199 passengers. Regarding the ATSB report's conclusions. I note after the first incident the tower controller made an additional attempt to confirm the reduced runway length with the Bambo Airlines flight crew. The controller requested the ATIS (automatic terminal information service) identifier as the aircraft was lined up to take off. Isn't it a requirement of the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) that they do so?
2. There were three change proposals to air traffic control procedures in providing essential aerodrome information related to runway works. An implementation date of March 2026 was set. Is this on track to be completed by then?
3. In relation to the introduction of visual aids into Part 139 Aerodromes Manual of Standards 2019, the ATSB report indicated that CASA would work with industry on the inclusion of those standards. Please provide an update on this work and if any timeframe was established for when this action would be completed.
4. Did Melbourne Airport make any adjustments regarding utilising unserviceability signs following these two incidents?
5. When the two incidents occurred in 2023, was the Minister or her office informed?
6. Has the Minister or her office been briefed about the final ATSB report?
7. Please provide the total number of ASTB air safety investigators for 2025 and what was the authorised strength required in 2025.

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. The three change proposals outlined in the Australian Transport Safety Bureau report have been implemented by Airservices Australia, effective from 19 March 2026.

3. CASA has developed proposed amendments to the Part 139 Manual of Standards that include unserviceability signage requirements aligned to the new ICAO standards published in November 2025. The changes will be consulted with industry and amendments are expected to be in place by Q3 2026.

In advance of these regulatory changes, CASA amended the Advisory Circular for Safe Planning and Conduct of Aerodrome Works (AC139 C-15) in February 2026 to include additional guidance for runway works that reduce, or otherwise impact, runway lengths. This followed consultation with the National Runway Safety Group which CASA chairs.

4. No, however following the second incident the aerodrome operator ceased undertaking works with a shortened runway and completed the works with full runway closures.
5. This is a matter for Australian Transport Safety Bureau.
6. This is a matter for Australian Transport Safety Bureau.
7. This is a matter for Australian Transport Safety Bureau.