

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Additional Estimates 2025 - 2026**

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

**Departmental Question Number:** SQ26-000304

**Division/Agency Name:** DIV - Domestic Aviation and Reform

**Hansard Reference:** Written, (23 February 2026)

**Topic:** Regional Airports Programs

**Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:**

1. What funding is currently available for regional airport infrastructure upgrades?
2. When will the next round of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program open?  
How much money is available for further rounds of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program?
3. When will the next round of the Regional Airports Program open?  
How much money is available for further rounds of the Regional Airports Program?
4. How many regional airports currently have unfunded safety upgrade requirements?  
Where are these safety upgrades located?
5. What is the breakdown of government aviation infrastructure funding, state by state for the years:
  - 2022-2023
  - 2023-2024
  - 2024-2025
  - 2025-2026

**Answer:**

1. The Regional Airports Program provides grant funding for safety and accessibility upgrades at airports and aerodromes in regional Australia.
2. Round 12 of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade program is expected to open in 2026 with \$25 million in grant funding available.
3. Round 5 of the Regional Airports Program is expected to open in 2026 with \$15 million in grant funding available, completing the Government's \$40 million commitment from the 2024-25 Budget.
4. Regional airport owners and operators are responsible for management of their assets and meeting any requirements set out by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.
5. Information on aviation infrastructure funding under the Regional Airports Program, the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program, the Regional Airports Screening Infrastructure Program and general regional grant programs has been provided in the response to Senator Canavan's Request, tabled 9 February 2026. Information on the funding provided for the Newcastle Airport International Terminal upgrade, Hobart Airport runway upgrade and Whyalla Airport upgrade is available in each years' budget papers.