

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:** SQ26-000310

**Division/Agency Name:** DIV - International Aviation Technology and Services

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

**Topic:** Bilateral Air Services Agreement

**Senator Bridget McKenzie asked:**

1. Which organisations and or stakeholders has the Department consult with on the Hong Kong Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
2. Which organisations and or stakeholders did the Department consult with on the Malaysia Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
3. Which organisations and or stakeholders did the Department consult with on the Turkiye Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
4. Which organisations and or stakeholders did the Department consult with on the Vietnam Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
5. Which organisations and or stakeholders did the Department consult with on the Sri Lanka Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
6. Which organisations and or stakeholders did the Department consult with on the Chile Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
7. Which organisations and or stakeholders did the Department consult with on the Canada Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
8. Which organisations and or stakeholders did the Department consult with on the Latvia Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
9. Which organisations and or stakeholders did the Department consult with on the Mongolia Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
10. Which organisations and or stakeholders did the Department consult with on the Rwanda Bilateral Air Services Agreement?
11. When did the Government last consult with Qatar Airways?
12. What was the outcome of that discussion with Qatar Airways?
13. Has the Department produced a formal implementation plan in response to the Select Committee's report?
14. On what date was that plan finalised, and has it been provided to the Minister?
15. How many of the Committee's recommendations have been fully implemented?
16. For recommendations that are not yet implemented, what is the target date for completion?
17. Are there recommendations that the Government does not accept?
18. What support is being considered for smaller airports to implement the requirements of the Consumer Ombuds Scheme?
19. Will funding for the ACCC Domestic Airline Competition Monitoring Program be extended beyond 2026?

**Answer:**

1 – 10. Refer to the response to SQ26-0000555 from the 2025-2026 Additional Estimates hearings.

11 – 12. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts bilateral consultations are with the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority and aviation stakeholders will be informed of the final outcome.

13 – 14. No.

15 – 17. Refer to the Australian Government response to the Senate Select Committee on Commonwealth Bilateral Air Services Agreements report, tabled on 11 December 2025. [www.infrastructure.gov.au/departments/media/publications/australian-government-response-select-committee-commonwealth-bilateral-air-service-agreements-report](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/departments/media/publications/australian-government-response-select-committee-commonwealth-bilateral-air-service-agreements-report).

18. The public consultation process on the Aviation Consumer Protection framework, including the proposed Aviation Consumer Protections Charter, closed on 26 October 2025. The submissions received and consultation feedback are being considered in the final design of the framework. This includes the scope of regulated entities that would be subject to the framework and the standards they would be required to meet.

19. Extending funding for the ACCC domestic airline monitoring program beyond 2026 is a decision for government.