

Question on Notice

No. 1573

Asked on Wednesday, 29 October 2008

MR O'BRIEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

What action is his department taking to resume regular passenger air transport services in the Torres Strait following the grounding of the previous operator?

ANSWER:

On Friday, 3 October 2008, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority suspended the Air Operators Certificate for Aero-Tropics due to significant safety concerns regarding the airline's operations.

Aero-Tropics operated on a commercial basis without any subsidy from the state government.

I am advised Queensland Transport is currently working with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Aero-Tropics, other regional operators and various state and local government agencies involved in, and affected by, the grounding of Aero-Tropics. Queensland Transport is in contact with key stakeholders on a daily basis to ensure that the department is abreast of any emerging issues.

Barrier Aviation is picking up the bulk of passengers affected by the suspension of Aero-Tropics services. These services are provided on a charter basis using available seating capacity.