



Australian Government

**Australian Government response to the Rural
and Regional Affairs and Transport References
Committee report:**

**Qantas' decision to close regional bases in
Canberra, Hobart and Mildura**

April 2026

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Overview

The Australian Government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the interim report by the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee (the Committee) into the state of Australia's aviation sector and its ability to deliver reliable and affordable services to rural, regional and remote communities.

The government notes that the interim report tabled on 18 February 2026 addresses the matters in term of reference (aa) which refers to Qantas' decision to close regional bases in Canberra, Hobart and Mildura.

Australian Government response

The Australian Government's response to the interim report is set out below.

Recommendation 1

3.15 The Committee recommends that Qantas/QantasLink works with the Transport Workers' Union, Australian Federation of Air Pilots, Flight Attendants' Association of Australia, and affected personnel to agree on appropriate compensation for pilots and crew who have been 'doubly disrupted' by this decision, including:

- pilots who relocated to one of these bases as part of the recent Qantas program; and
- pilots and crew affected by previous base closures.

The Australian Government **notes** this recommendation is a matter for Qantas Airways Limited to consider.

Recommendation 2

3.34 The Committee recommends that the Australian Government considers options for a formal mechanism to facilitate meaningful consultation between employees, the flying public, aviation sector stakeholders, regulators, and airlines on decisions affecting Australia's aviation network into the future.

The Australian Government **notes** this recommendation.

The Aviation White Paper sets out the Australian Government's policies to improve the safety, productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian aviation industry.

The Government will further consider this recommendation in the context of the findings from the Committee final report.