

OFFICIAL



Australian Government

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

Curfew Dispensation Report

Report 01 2026

January 2026



APPROVED DISPENSATIONS – SYDNEY (Kingsford Smith) AIRPORT #01/2026**GRANTED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 24/11/2025 – 26/01/2026****DETAILS OF DISPENSATION**

Date: 25 November 2025

Operator: Tasman Cargo Airlines

Flight Number: HJ2

Aircraft: B767

Registration: VH-XQU

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Tasman Cargo Airlines flight HJ2 (Sydney to Auckland) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. There was an outage with the aircraft's load control system which measures and records cargo weight. Therefore, weight details had to be processed manually, delaying departure. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:45 local time. HJ2 was a freight flight with 3 crew onboard and cargo including must-fly life-saving medical radioactive isotopes. The aircraft departed at 23:22 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 26 November 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ113

Aircraft: A321

Registration: VH-OYQ

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ113 (Sydney to Rarotonga) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. The aircraft was required to return to the gate on 2 occasions due to an engine pack fault which impacted the operation of the aircraft's engine. Engineers attended but were unable to rectify the issue and an aircraft swap was required. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 00:45 local time. JQ113 had 154 passengers, including 6 children, 6 infants, 2 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance, and 7 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 00:40 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 26 November 2025

Operator: Texel Air Australasia

Flight Number: TFX41

Aircraft: B737

Registration: ZK-TXD

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Texel Air Australasia flight TFX41 (Sydney to Brisbane) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to ground operation delays. Discrepancies with documentation after the cargo was loaded resulted in the aircraft having to unload and reload the cargo, causing a delay. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:45 local time. TFX41 was a freight flight with 2 crew onboard and cargo including must-fly life-saving medical radioactive isotopes bound for regional Australian towns. The aircraft departed at 23:28 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 27 November 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF555

Aircraft: A321

Registration: VH-OGB

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF555 (Brisbane to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to air traffic management issues. After the aircraft was ready for pushback, Brisbane Airport experienced a more significant Air Traffic Controller (ATC) disruption than anticipated due to severe weather. Further, Brisbane ATC placed an incorrect Targeted Start-up time for the aircraft into the Airport Collaborative Decision Making System, which had to be rectified delaying departure further. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:40 local time. QF555 had 115 passengers, including one passenger requiring wheelchair assistance, and 7 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:35 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 27 November 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF498

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VZO

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF498 (Melbourne to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. During taxiing, the aircraft reported an elevator feel fault, which is connected to the aerodynamic resistance system, and returned to the gate to complete an aircraft swap. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 local time. QF498 had 115 passengers and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:39 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 30 November 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ826

Aircraft: A321

Registration: VH-OFL

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ826 (Sydney to Brisbane) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to ground operation delays. The previous sector flight (JQ825 – Brisbane to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to ATC ground operation delays. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:20 local time. JQ826 had 232 passengers, including 2 children, 6 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance, and 7 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:15 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 2 December 2025

Operator: Etihad Airways

Flight Number: EY455

Aircraft: A350

Registration: A6-XWG

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Etihad Airways flight EY455 (Sydney to Abu Dhabi) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. Prior to boarding, the aircraft's navigation system failed. The aircraft was towed to a gate for engineering inspection and repairs. The aircraft experienced a further delay as a child passenger became sick and had to be offloaded with their family and baggage. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:40 local time. EY455 had 372 passengers and 18 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:31 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 4 December 2025

Operator: Tasman Cargo Airlines

Flight Number: HJ2

Aircraft: B767

Registration: VH-EXZ

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Tasman Cargo Airlines flight HJ2 (Sydney to Auckland) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to ground operation delays. Due to a printer malfunction, there was a delay in the preparation of necessary documents needed for take-off. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:20 local time. HJ2 was a freight flight with 2 passengers and 3 crew onboard, and cargo including 5 packages of must-fly radioactive medical isotopes for medical treatment and diagnosis the next day. The aircraft departed at 23:17 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 6 December 2025

Operator: Malaysia Airlines

Flight Number: MH6208

Aircraft: A332

Registration: 9M-MUB

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Malaysia Airlines flight MH6208 (Sydney to Kuala Lumpur) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to adverse weather conditions. The cargo flight was carrying live animals and alternative arrangements could not be made. In the interest of animal welfare, a dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:30 local time. MH6208 was a freight flight with 2 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:15 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 7 December 2025

Operator: Singapore Airlines

Flight Number: SQ242

Aircraft: A350

Registration: 9V-SMM

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Singapore Airlines flight SQ242 (Sydney to Singapore) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. The aircraft reported a flight control elevator actuator fault which required an engineer to inspect and repair. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:59 local time. SQ242 had 230 passengers, including 14 children, one infant, 4 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance, and 15 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:32 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 11 December 2025

Operator: Virgin Australia

Flight Number: VA562

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-NJV

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Virgin Australia flight VA562 (Perth to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to air traffic management issues. There were delays at Perth Airport which impacted departures due to bushfire, smoke and aerial firefighting activity in the area. Further delays were caused by unexpected ATC staffing constraints. This caused the aircraft to be delayed during both push-back at the gate and taxiing. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. VA562 had 125 passengers and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:12 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 11 December 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF652

Aircraft: A321

Registration: VH-OGA

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF652 (Perth to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to air traffic management issues. There were delays at Perth Airport which impacted departures due to bushfire, smoke and aerial firefighting activity in the area. Further delays were caused by unexpected ATC staffing constraints. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:45 local time. QF652 had 162 passengers, including one passenger requiring wheelchair assistance, and 7 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:33 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 12 December 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ612

Aircraft: A321

Registration: VH-OFS

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ612 (Avalon to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. After the aircraft pushed back, an engine start failure occurred requiring it to return to the gate for an engineer to inspect and repair. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. JQ612 had 224 passengers, including 9 children, one infant, one passenger requiring wheelchair assistance, and 7 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:22 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 14 December 2025

Operator: Emirates

Flight Number: EK414

Aircraft: A380

Registration: A6-EVQ

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Emirates flight EK414 (Dubai to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to a flight diversion. Whilst airborne, an onboard medical emergency resulted in the aircraft diverting to Perth Airport. The diversion required the aircraft to be refuelled prior to re-departure. There was insufficient suitable accommodation available for all the passengers and crew, and Perth Airport was unable to accommodate the passengers if the aircraft was required to remain overnight. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 00:59 local time. EK414 had 409 passengers, including 2 infants, 19 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance and 4 assisted passengers, and 31 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 00:45 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 14 December 2025

Operator: Royal Australian Air Force

Flight Number: EVY50

Aircraft: F7X

Registration: A56-002

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Royal Australian Air Force flight EVY50 (Canberra to Sydney) requested a dispensation to arrive at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport during the curfew period due to a terrorist incident at Bondi Beach. The unscheduled flight was required to fly senior Australian Government officials to Sydney to respond to the terrorist incident. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 local time. EVY50 had 5 passengers and 3 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:54 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 23 December 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF499

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VXN

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF499 (Sydney to Melbourne) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to boarding delays. One passenger failed to board the aircraft and their bags were removed. Another passenger boarded the aircraft late. Both incidents caused a delay. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:15 local time. QF499 had 139 passengers and 6 crew onboard with cargo including 52kg of must-fly medical surgery goods. The aircraft departed at 23:13 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 27 December 2025

Operator: Hawaiian Airlines

Flight Number: HA852

Aircraft: A330

Registration: N378HA

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Hawaiian Airlines flight HA852 (Sydney to Honolulu) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. Immediately prior to push-back the aircraft alerted a fault warning with the aircraft batteries. The aircraft was inspected by an engineer and refuelled. The delay required the submission of a new flight plan which further delayed departure. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:59 local time. HA852 had 212 passengers and 13 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:54 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 3 January 2026

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ899

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3L

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ899 (Busselton to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to baggage loading delays. The equipment used for loading baggage malfunctioned and become stuck while attached to the aircraft. An engineer was required to fix the fault. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. JQ899 had 163 passengers, including 17 children, 2 infants and one passenger requiring wheelchair assistance, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:15 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 4 January 2026

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ612

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3B

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ612 (Avalon to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. The original aircraft's engine fairing panel required parts and repair. These repairs took longer than expected due to paperwork authorisation delays. An aircraft swap was arranged to avoid further delays. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. JQ612 had 168 passengers, including 4 children and one infant, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:15 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 8 January 2026

Operator: AirAsia X

Flight Number: D7221

Aircraft: A330

Registration: 9M-XBF

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: AirAsia X flight D7221 (Sydney to Kuala Lumpur) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to boarding delays. During boarding, 5 passengers were required to be removed from the flight as well as their luggage. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:40 local time. D7221 had 285 passengers, including 4 infants and 3 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance, and 11 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:20 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 15 January 2026

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF148

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-XZM

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF148 (Auckland to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to boarding delays. During the boarding process, ground handling equipment (stairs for passengers to board) became unserviceable and a replacement was arranged. However, the replacement became unsuitable as they were not safe to use in the wet conditions. The aircraft experienced a further unexpected airborne delay prior to arrival. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 local time. QF148 had 169 passengers and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:40 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 17 January 2026

Operator: Emirates

Flight Number: EK414

Aircraft: A380

Registration: A6-EVM

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Emirates flight EK414 (Dubai to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. Immediately prior to departure, the aircraft reported a fault with the drain mast heating system, requiring a complete power down of the aircraft for inspection and repair. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 local time. EK414 had 451 passengers, including 45 children and 2 infants, and 29 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:15 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 17 January 2026

Operator: Malaysian Airlines

Flight Number: MH141

Aircraft: A330

Registration: M9-MNG

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Malaysian Airlines flight MH141 (Kuala Lumpur to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to a flight diversion. The flight was diverted to Canberra Airport due to inclement weather and congestion at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport. Due to limited ground support for the aircraft at Canberra Airport, it was unable to remain overnight. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 local time. MH141 had 293 passengers and 11 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:46 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 17 January 2026

Operator: Hawaiian Airlines

Flight Number: HA852

Aircraft: A332

Registration: N380HA

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Hawaiian Airlines flight HA582 (Sydney to Honolulu) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. The aircraft reported a fault with the reverse thrust system that required inspection and repairs. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:59 local time. HA582 had 237 passengers and crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:24 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

REFUSED DISPENSATIONS – SYDNEY (Kingsford Smith) AIRPORT #01/2026

REFUSED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 24/11/2025 – 26/01/2026

There were no refused dispensations for Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport during this period.

Note: This Dispensation Report records all dispensations that are formally approved or refused. The Delegates regularly receive questions by phone from airlines about whether a dispensation is likely to be approved if an application is made.

Where the Delegate advises that a dispensation is unlikely to be approved if an application is made, airlines do not generally make a formal application.

These situations are not recorded in this Dispensation Report.

GRANTED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 24/11/2025 – 26/01/2026**DETAILS OF DISPENSATION**

Date: 26 November 2025

Operator: Virgin Australia

Flight Number: VA1404

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VOO

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Virgin Australia flight VA1404 (Brisbane to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to air traffic management issues.

Immediately prior to departure, ATC issued a hold-at-the-bay direction to the aircraft due to a departure stop in place. The direction delayed push-back from gate by 44 minutes.

A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:45 local time. VA1404 had 177 passengers, including one infant and one passenger requiring wheelchair assistance, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:36 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 26 November 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ768

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3F

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ768 (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to boarding delays. The previous sector flight (JQ767 – Adelaide to Sydney) experienced a delay as passengers were required to disembark through the rear door only due to an aerobridge mechanical failure. The aircraft was also required to re-board through the rear door only for the Sydney to Adelaide flight.

A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:45 local time. JQ768 had 177 passengers, including 6 children, 2 infants, and 7 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:41 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 27 November 2025

Operator: Alliance Airlines

Flight Number: VA1402

Aircraft: F100

Registration: VH-UQC

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Alliance Airlines VA1402 flight (Brisbane to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to air traffic management issues. Brisbane Airport experienced a more significant Air Traffic Controller (ATC) disruption than anticipated due to severe weather which caused a delay. Further, Brisbane ATC placed an incorrect Targeted Start up time for the aircraft into the Airport Collaborative Decision Making System, which had to be rectified, delaying the aircraft departure further. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:15 local time. VA1402 had 96 passengers and 4 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:09 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 30 November 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF749

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VYL

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF749 (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to a crewing issue. The captain for the flight was delayed in the previous sector on another aircraft. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:35 local time. QF749 had 170 passengers including 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:31 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 1 December 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ768

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-XSJ

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ768 (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to boarding delays and an engineering fault. Two passengers failed to board the aircraft, and their checked-in luggage was removed. The aircraft also experienced an engineering issue with a button on the Flight Control Unit, which was replaced by an engineer. The aircraft was further delayed during taxiing due to taxiway congestion, and a runway change at the direction of ATC. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:50 local time. JQ768 had 158 passengers, including 4 children and one passenger requiring wheelchair assistance, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:40 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 2 December 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ807

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3D

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways JQ807 (Sunshine Coast to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due an engineering fault. The aircraft's previous sector flight (JQ796 – Melbourne to Sunshine Coast) experienced a bird strike and an engineer was required to travel from Brisbane to inspect and complete paperwork. An aircraft swap was arranged to avoid further delays. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. JQ807 had 158 passengers, including 4 infants and 2 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:24 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 11 December 2025

Operator: Alliance Airlines

Flight Number: QF1939

Aircraft: E190

Registration: VH-UYZ

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Alliance Airlines flight QF1939 (Brisbane to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to airborne flight delays. During the flight, adverse weather conditions required the aircraft to complete a significant flightpath deviation. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:15 local time. QF1939 had 75 passengers and 4 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:00 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 11 December 2025

Operator: Virgin Australia

Flight Number: VA722

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-YIT

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Virgin Australia flight VA722 (Perth to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to air traffic management limitations. The flight was delayed in both gate push-back and taxiing due to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) for Perth Airport placing limitations on operations. This operational decision by the ATC was made due to bushfire, smoke and aerial firefighting in the area, combined with an ATC staffing shortage. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:08 local time. VA722 had 151 passengers including one passenger requiring wheelchair assistance and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:08 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 11 December 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF888

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VZD

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF888 (Perth to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to air traffic management limitations. There were delays at Perth Airport which impacted departures due to bushfire, smoke and aerial firefighting activity in the area. Further delays were caused by unexpected ATC staffing constraints. This caused the aircraft to be delayed during both push-back at the gate and taxiing. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:45 local time. QF888 had 106 passengers and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:18 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 11 December 2025

Operator: Virgin Australia

Flight Number: VA442

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-YQG

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Virgin Australia flight VA442 (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to a previous sector delay. The previous sector flight (VA869 – Melbourne to Sydney) was delayed due to the aircraft's weather radar reporting a fault that required an engineer to inspect and repair. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:40 local time. VA442 had 152 passengers, including 2 infants and 2 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:26 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 11 December 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ768

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-A5E

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ768 (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to an engineering fault. After pushback from the gate, the aircraft reported a fault with the onboard weather radar requiring it to return to the gate for repairs. An aircraft swap was arranged to avoid further delays. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 local time. JQ768 had 138 passengers, including 6 children, 2 assisted passengers and one infant, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:50 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 13 December 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ802

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3J

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ802 (Brisbane to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to an engineering fault. The aircraft reported a flight control fault requiring an engineer to inspect and repair. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:20 local time. JQ802 had 174 passengers, including 9 children, 2 infants and 2 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:02 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 14 December 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF888

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VXA

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF888 (Perth to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to adverse weather conditions. An unexpected change in storm conditions at Perth Airport forced a ground operations stop for 45 minutes, delaying the departure of this flight. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:40 local time. QF888 had 137 passengers, including one passenger requiring wheelchair assistance, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:30 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 14 December 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ843

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3J

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ843 (Whitsunday Coast to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to an engineering fault. On preparation for departure, the ground power unit being used by the aircraft experienced an engineering failure requiring engineer inspection and repair. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 local time. JQ843 had 149 passengers, including 11 children, 3 infants and one unaccompanied minor, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:51 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 20 December 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ768

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-VFL

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ768 (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to an engineering fault. Prior to boarding, the aircraft experienced a failure in its auxiliary power unit causing fumes to be present in the cabin. An engineer was required to inspect and repair. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. JQ768 had 149 passengers, including 11 children, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:15 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 22 December 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF749

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VXJ

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF749 (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to an engineering fault. The aircraft reported a fuel level discrepancy after refuelling had been completed. An engineering inspection was required, delaying departure. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. QF749 had 149 passengers, including one assisted passenger, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:01 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 23 December 2025

Operator: Alliance Airlines

Flight Number: QF1939

Aircraft: E190

Registration: VH-XVO

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Alliance Airlines flight QF1939 (Brisbane to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to air traffic management issues. ATC staffing issues at Brisbane Airport resulted in significant delays in operations for both arriving and departing aircraft. The aircraft was unable to find accommodation for passengers in Brisbane due to the number of flight cancellations caused by the ATC staffing issues. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:50 local time. QF1939 had 58 passengers, including one infant, and 4 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:46 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 27 December 2025

Operator: Qatar Airways

Flight Number: QR915

Aircraft: A350

Registration: A7-ALY

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qatar Airways flight QR915 (Adelaide to Doha) was delayed departing from Adelaide Airport due to ground operation delays. The ATC directed the aircraft to change its departure runway. This change necessitated cargo and baggage to be offloaded to meet the take-off limitations for the aircraft on that runway. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:30 local time. QR915 had 278 passengers and 17 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:28 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 30 December 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ807

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3F

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ807 (Sunshine Coast to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to an engineering fault. Immediately prior to departure, fumes were reported in the cabin caused by a failing Auxiliary Power Unit. An engineer inspected the aircraft and repaired the air start unit. The cabin crew were required to be medically assessed and declared fit to fly prior to departure. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. JQ807 had 170 passengers, including 22 children, 2 infants and 2 assisted passengers, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:17 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 2 January 2026

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ802

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3F

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ802 (Brisbane to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to delays in the previous sector. Arrival of the previous sector flight (JQ803 – Adelaide to Brisbane) was delayed to allow for a torso restraint for a passenger to be fitted, and for the crew to be briefed about the restraint. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:15 local time. JQ802 had 165 passengers, including 15 children and 2 infants, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:10 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 5 January 2026

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ802

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-VFT

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ802 (Brisbane to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to an engineering issue. Crew reported the smell of fumes in the cabin, and an engineer was required to attend to inspect the aircraft. The cabin crew were required to be medically assessed and declared fit to fly prior to departure. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:10 local time. JQ802 had 177 passengers, including 13 children, 2 infants and 2 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:01 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 10 January 2026

Operator: Emirates

Flight Number: EK441

Aircraft: A350

Registration: A6-EXM

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Emirates flight EK441 (Adelaide to Dubai) was delayed departing from Adelaide Airport due to delays in the previous sector. The previous sector flight (EK440 – Dubai to Adelaide) was delayed in arriving at Adelaide Airport as ATC made multiple changes to its assigned gate for disembarkation. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:30 local time. EK441 had 272 passengers, including one infant, 2 assisted passengers and 13 passengers requiring wheelchair assistance, and 16 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:22 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 25 January 2026

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ802

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3N

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar flight JQ802 (Brisbane to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to an engineering fault. The aircraft was required to return to gate due to an anti-ice fault message. Engineers completed an inspection and repair. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:20 local time. JQ802 had 173 passengers, including 18 children and 1 infant, and 7 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:08 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

APPROVED DISPENSATIONS – GOLD COAST AIRPORT #01/2026

GRANTED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 24/11/2025 – 26/01/2026

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 5 December 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ133

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-VFF

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ133 (Gold Coast to Auckland) was delayed departing from Gold Coast Airport due to boarding delays. Two intoxicated passengers and their luggage were removed from the aircraft causing a delay. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:15 local time. JQ133 had 168 passengers, including 4 children and 3 infants, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:12 local time.

Approved: Yes

Reasons for Approval: The Delegate was satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

APPROVED DISPENSATIONS – ESSENDON FIELDS AIRPORT #01/2026

GRANTED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 24/11/2025 – 26/01/2026

There were no approved dispensations for Essendon Fields Airport during this period.

REFUSED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 24/11/2026 – 26/01/2026**DETAILS OF REFUSED DISPENSATION**

Date: 17 January 2026

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ768

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3F

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ768 (Sydney to Adelaide) requested a dispensation to land at Adelaide Airport due to a delay in the previous sector. The previous sector flight (JQ767 - Adelaide to Sydney) was required to hold whilst taxiing at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to bad weather. A dispensation for landing at Adelaide Airport was not granted as the adverse weather was known, therefore the circumstances for the delay were not exceptional. JQ768 had 183 passengers, including 12 infants and 2 assisted passengers, and 6 crew onboard.

Approved: No

Reasons for Refusal: The Delegate was not satisfied that exceptional circumstances existed for the approval of a curfew dispensation.

REFUSED DISPENSATIONS – GOLD COAST AIRPORT #01/2026

REFUSED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 24/11/2025 – 26/01/2026

There were no refused dispensations for Gold Coast Airport during this period.

REFUSED DISPENSATIONS – ESSENDON FIELDS #01/2026

REFUSED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 24/11/2025 – 26/01/2026

There were no refused dispensations for Essendon Fields Airport during this period.

Note: This Dispensation Report records all dispensations that are formally approved or refused. The Delegates regularly receive questions by phone from airlines about whether a dispensation is likely to be approved if an application is made.

Where the Delegate advises that a dispensation is unlikely to be approved if an application is made, airlines do not generally make a formal application.

These situations are not recorded in this Dispensation Report.