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Australian Government

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

Curfew Dispensation Report

Report 03 2026

March 2026



APPROVED DISPENSATIONS – SYDNEY (Kingsford Smith) AIRPORT #03/2026

APPROVED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 06/02/2026 – 01/03/2026

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 12 February 2026

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 adverse weather conditions. Whilst weather events do not meet the primary requirements for granting a dispensation, the delegate cited the vital, must-fly, radioactive medical goods onboard as the reason for the approval. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:45 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: 17 February 2026

Operator: Singapore Airlines Cargo

Flight Number: SQ7298

Aircraft: B737

Registration: 9V-SFN

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Singapore Airlines Cargo flight SQ7298 (Sydney to Auckland) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to ground operation delays. There was a delay in loading 36 live horses onto the aircraft when a cargo loading machine broke, and a replacement machine was required. In granting the dispensation, the delegate took into account the lack of proper alternative arrangements and the welfare of the animals. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:45 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: 17 February 2026

Operator: Malaysia Airlines

Flight Number: MH140

Aircraft: A330

Registration: 9M-MNN

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Malaysian Airline flight MH140 (Sydney to Kuala Lumpur) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to ground operation delays. While cargo was being unloaded and reloaded onto the aircraft, a hydraulic pump on the cargo loader burst, spilling hydraulic fluid onto the tarmac which needed to be cleaned prior to the aircraft pushing back for safety reasons. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:59 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 February 2026

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ536

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3B

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ536 (Melbourne to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to a ground stop program implemented because of a significant and unexpected weather event. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:05 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 February 2026

Operator: Emirates

Flight Number: EK416

Aircraft: A380

Registration: A6-EDM

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Emirates flight EK416 (Dubai to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to a ground stop program implemented because of a significant and unexpected weather event. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 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 February 2026

Operator: Qatar Airways

Flight Number: QR908

Aircraft: A380

Registration: A7-APF

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qatar Airlines flight QR908 (Doha to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to a ground stop program implemented because of a significant and unexpected weather event. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 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 February 2026

Operator: Scoot Airways

Flight Number: TR12

Aircraft: B788

Registration: 9V-OFJ

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Scoot Airways flight TR12 (Singapore to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to a ground stop program implemented because of a significant and unexpected weather event. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 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 February 2026

Operator: Qantas Airways

Flight Number: QF559

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-XZO

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas Airways flight QF559 (Brisbane to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an unexpected ground stop program implemented because of a significant and unexpected weather event. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 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 February 2026

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ204

Aircraft: A321

Registration: VH-OYU

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ204 (Auckland to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to a ground stop program implemented because of a significant and unexpected weather event. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 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 February 2026

Operator: Qantas Airways

Flight Number: QF494

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VXU

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas Airways flight QF494 (Melbourne to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an unexpected ground stop program implemented for a significant and unexpected weather event. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 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 February 2026

Operator: Qantas Airways

Flight Number: QF75

Aircraft: B787

Registration: VH-ZNL

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas Airways flight QF75 (Sydney to Vancouver) was delayed departing Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an unexpected ground stop program implemented for a significant and unexpected weather event. The aircraft experienced a further delay as another aircraft required an emergency landing. A dispensation was granted for departure no later than 00:15 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: 27 February 2026

Operator: Qantas Airways

Flight Number: QF497

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VYF

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas Airways flight QF497 (Sydney to Melbourne) was delayed departing Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an unexpected ground stop program implemented for a significant and unexpected weather event. The aircraft experienced a further delay as another aircraft required an emergency landing. A dispensation was granted for departure no later than 00:15 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: 27 February 2026

Operator: Qantas Airways

Flight Number: QF499

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VYA

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas Airways flight QF499 (Sydney to Melbourne) was delayed departing Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to unexpected ground stop program implemented for a significant and unexpected weather event. The aircraft experienced a further delay as another aircraft required an emergency landing. A dispensation was granted for departure no later than 00:15 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: 27 February 2026

Operator: Texel Air Australasia

Flight Number: TFX22

Aircraft: B737

Registration: ZK-TXC

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Texel Air Australasia flight TFX22 (Sydney to Melbourne) was delayed departing Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an unexpected ground stop program implemented for a significant and unexpected weather event. TFX22 was transporting time sensitive cancer isotopes, which the delegate took into account in granting the dispensation. A dispensation was granted for departure no later than 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: 27 February 2026

Operator: Texel Air Australasia

Flight Number: TFX41

Aircraft: B737

Registration: ZK-TXB

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Texel Air Australasia flight TFX41 (Sydney to Brisbane) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an unexpected ground stop program implemented for a significant and unexpected weather event. A dispensation was granted for departure no later than 00:40 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 #03/2026

REFUSED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 06/02/2026 – 01/03/2026

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.