



Australian Government

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

Curfew Dispensation Report

Report 07 2025

October 2025



GRANTED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 07/10/2025 – 26/10/2025

DETAILS OF DISPENSATION

Date: 15 October 2025

Operator: Qatar Airways

Flight Number: QTR8576

Aircraft: B777

Registration: A7-BFJ

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qatar Airways flight QTR8576 (Sydney to Melbourne) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to boarding delays. While loading a number of live horses onto the aircraft prior to departure, the animals became agitated and loading was delayed due to safety reasons. No alternative agistment or transport option were available for the horses, who were in transit. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:59 local time. QTR8576 was a cargo flight with crew onboard. The aircraft departed 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: 19 October 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ789

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-XNJ

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ789 (Sunshine Coast to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. During the pre-flight inspection, it was noted that the high-speed tape on the engine cowling had come off. An engineer was required from Brisbane to replace the tape and to complete paperwork prior to departure. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. JQ789 had 162 passengers, including 2 infants and 1 child, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:03 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: 19 October 2025

Operator: Hawaiian Airlines

Flight Number: HA452

Aircraft: A330

Registration: N375HA

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Hawaiian Airlines flight HA452 (Sydney to Honolulu) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to technical issues. After push-back, a cargo door alert occurred, requiring an engineer to attend to re-set the door and complete paperwork. The aircraft then alerted a further error with the cargo door, and a loose cargo pallet was located. The pallet was removed from the aircraft for safety reasons, and a new load sheet was prepared. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:40 local time. HA452 had 142 passengers and 13 crew onboard. The aircraft departed 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: 20 October 2025

Operator: Cathay Pacific Airways

Flight Number: CX138

Aircraft: B777

Registration: B-KPY

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Cathay Pacific Airways flight CX138 (Sydney to Hong Kong) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to adverse weather conditions. A passenger on CX138 was transporting time sensitive stem cells for a transplant patient in London. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:59 local time. CX138 had 325 passengers and 16 crew onboard, and cargo including time sensitive human stem cells. The aircraft departed 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: 20 October 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF556

Aircraft: B738

Registration: VH-VXE

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF556 (Sydney to Brisbane) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to crewing issues. Immediately before departure, a crew member became unwell and a reserve was required. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:30 local time. QF556 had 136 passengers, including 1 passenger requiring a wheelchair, 1 infant, and 6 crew onboard and cargo including must-fly surgical goods. The aircraft departed at 23:16 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: 21 October 2025

Operator: All Nippon Airways

Flight Number: NH880

Aircraft: B787

Registration: JA888A

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: All Nippon Airways Flight NH880 (Sydney to Tokyo) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. During pre-departure checks, the aircraft's engine reported an error message. An engineer attended but was unable to clear the message and a replacement part was required. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:50 local time. NH880 had 220 passengers, including 2 passengers requiring wheelchairs, and 12 crew onboard. The aircraft departed 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: 22 October 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ532

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-YXQ

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ532 (Melbourne to Sydney) was delayed arriving at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to boarding delays. Five passengers failed to board the aircraft, requiring additional checks to take place. JQ532 had 179 passengers, including 8 infants, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:03 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 October 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF556

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VXR

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF556 (Sydney to Brisbane) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to boarding delays. An aerobridge malfunction inhibited a wheelchair bound customer to disembark from the previous service, and the aircraft needed to be towed to an alternate bay. Further delays were caused by a customer failing to board the outbound service. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:15 local time. QF556 had 163 passengers, 1 service dog, 6 crew onboard and cargo including 15kgs of life saving medical goods and animal products.

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 October 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF499

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-XZA

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF499 (Sydney to Melbourne) was delayed departing from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport due to an engineering fault. An aircraft swap was required due to a cockpit windscreen electrical defect, with a second aircraft swap occurring due to a cooling fan fault that could not be quickly repaired by engineering crew. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:30 local time. QF499 had 100 passengers and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft departed 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.

REFUSED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 07/10/2025 – 26/10/2025**DETAILS OF REFUSED DISPENSATION**

Date: 21 October 2025

Operator: China Eastern Airlines

Flight Number: MU599

Aircraft: A330

Registration: B-5943

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: China Eastern Airlines flight MU599 (Sydney to Shanghai) requested a dispensation to take-off during the curfew period at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport. The day before, 20 October 2025, the flight had been cancelled due to an engineering fault which had been repaired. MU599 had no passengers and 19 crew onboard. A dispensation was not granted as the delay was caused by a known issue, and there were reasonable alternative arrangements available to the aircraft. Therefore, the request did not meet the criteria for exceptional circumstances required to issue a curfew dispensation for take-off at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport.

Approved: No

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

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: 07/10/2025 – 26/10/2025**DETAILS OF DISPENSATION**

Date: 7 October 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ689

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-X3E

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ689 (Darwin to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to crewing issues. During passenger boarding, a crew member was injured while assisting a passenger. A number of passengers and baggage was removed from the flight to meet the passenger to crew ratio safety requirements. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:59 local time. JQ689 had 149 passengers, including 18 children, 1 infant, 1 passenger requiring a wheelchair and 5 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:16 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: 9 October 2025

Operator: Virgin Australia

Flight Number: VA248

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-YIJ

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Virgin Australia flight VA248 (Adelaide to Melbourne) was delayed departing from Adelaide Airport due to a previous sector delay. The previous sector flight (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed in departing due to unexpected single runway operations at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:30 local time. VA248 had 144 passengers and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:16 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 October 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF749

Aircraft: B738

Registration: VH-VXN

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF749 (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to an engineering fault. During departure preparations, the main door cabin crew jump seat was identified as faulty, which required maintenance prior to departure. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. QF749 had 109 passengers and 6 crew on board and cargo including 30kg of must-fly medical goods and 8kg of human blood. The aircraft arrived at 23:04 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 October 2025

Operator: Emirates

Flight Number: EK441

Aircraft: B777

Registration: A6-EJW

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Emirates flight EK441 (Adelaide to Dubai) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to boarding delays. On arrival of the preceding sector flight (Dubai to Adelaide), a passenger presented with fever symptoms. A medical check and clearance were required before passengers could disembark. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:30 local time. EK441 had 137 passengers and 16 crew onboard and cargo including human blood samples, 7kgs of DNA samples and 1 tonne of perishable seafood. The aircraft departed at 23:21 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 October 2025

Operator: Virgin Australia

Flight Number: VA723

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-YIZ

Operation: Departure

Circumstances Leading to Request: Virgin Australia Flight VA723 (Adelaide to Perth) was delayed departing from Adelaide Airport due to an engineering fault. Immediately prior to departure an engineering issue was identified with the aircraft's gyroscope which required an engineer to repair. A further delay occurred as an intoxicated passenger was required to be removed from the flight. A dispensation was granted for take-off no later than 23:20 local time. VA723 had 109 passengers, including 2 infants and 1 passenger requiring a wheelchair, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft departed at 23:19 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: 21 October 2025

Operator: Jetstar Airways

Flight Number: JQ689

Aircraft: A320

Registration: VH-VFX

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Jetstar Airways flight JQ689 (Darwin to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to previous sector delays. During the previous sector flight (Adelaide to Darwin), fumes became present in the aircraft's rear gallery, and then reoccurred during the landing at Darwin. On arrival, the crew required a medical assessment to ensure fitness to operate and the aircraft underwent engineering checks. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:15 local time. JQ689 had 176 passengers, including 2 passengers requiring wheelchairs and 1 infant, 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: 23 October 2025

Operator: Alliance Airlines

Flight Number: QF1939

Aircraft: E190

Registration: VH-UYJ

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Alliance Airlines flight QF1939 (Brisbane to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to previous sector delays. During the previous sector flight (Newcastle to Brisbane), a technical issue was discovered with the aircraft's flight control system requiring an engineer to attend and troubleshoot. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:15 local time. QF1939 had 93 passengers and 4 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: 26 October 2025

Operator: Qantas

Flight Number: QF749

Aircraft: B737

Registration: VH-VZX

Operation: Arrival

Circumstances Leading to Request: Qantas flight QF749 (Sydney to Adelaide) was delayed arriving at Adelaide Airport due to ground operation delays. The flight was initially delayed when a passenger required additional assistance to board. A ground delay program put in place by Airservices Australia at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport further delayed the aircraft's arrival. A dispensation was granted for landing no later than 23:15 local time. QF749 had 163 passengers, including 2 passengers requiring wheelchairs, and 6 crew onboard. The aircraft arrived at 23:03 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 #07/2025

GRANTED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 07/10/2025 – 26/10/2025

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

APPROVED DISPENSATIONS – ESSENDON FIELDS AIRPORT #07/2025

GRANTED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 07/10/2025 – 26/10/2025

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

REFUSED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 07/10/2025 – 26/10/2025

There were no refused dispensations for Adelaide Airport during this period.

REFUSED DISPENSATIONS – GOLD COAST AIRPORT #07/2025

REFUSED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 07/10/2025 – 26/10/2025

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

REFUSED DISPENSATION DETAILS FOR PERIOD: 07/10/2025 – 26/10/2025

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

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