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Airport users to meet in Canberra over curfew

Airlines will meet in Canberra today for talks on the curfew at Sydney Airport after passengers were left stranded by delayed flights and the 11pm lockout rule.

The federal Department of Transport will meet with Qantas, Virgin Blue, Jetstar and Regional Express to debate the rules which say planes cannot take off between 11pm and 6am.

According to the *Australian Financial Review*, the airlines want that rule changed so that the federal transport minister can grant permission for flights in "special circumstances".

The meeting follows two well-publicised lockouts at Sydney Airport over the past month. In the first case, Jetstar passengers who had been waiting for flights were told to leave the airport because the terminal shut at 11pm.

A similar situation then occurred at Virgin Blue, but the airline got permission for its passengers to stay inside.