



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION**

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The Committee Secretary  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Review of Aviation Security in Australia**

I have been directed by the South Australian Division of the Australian Airports Association (AAA) to make a submission to this review on their behalf.

Before addressing the specific terms of reference for the review I would like to note that the South Australian Division of the AAA is of the opinion that:

- Aviation security in Australia is currently being managed by competent authorities; and
- The current categorisation of airports for security purposes is appropriate and should be retained.

In respect of the seven specific terms of reference for the review I put forward the following brief comments:

- a) The Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services is considered to be the appropriate authority to manage the regulation of aviation security in Australia and we support the retention of this arrangement for the future;
- b) Where regulation is required the need for compliance is recognised and we have no concerns to raise with the current level of such compliance in South Australia;
- c) We are not well placed to make informed comment on compliance by airlines and we have no concerns to raise with the current level of compliance in South Australia;
- d) Australia should set its own security requirements and standards which should be specifically developed for the Australian conditions;

- e) If the full suite of aviation security measures were to be required in regional South Australia it is considered unlikely that any of the RPT services would survive. The cost to implement full security measures in a typical regional airport (estimated in the order of \$4 million for establishment plus the ongoing costs) would almost certainly result in the closure of such services.

The situation at Ceduna provides a good example to highlight the enormity of such an imposition on a small regional community. Ceduna has a population of 3559, located 780 km west of Adelaide by road, it is currently serviced by 12 RPT flights per week with approximately 10,000 passenger movements per annum. This local community is already subsidising the airport in order to retain this essential transport link to the capital city. A few simple sums will quickly show that neither the local community or the passengers would have the capacity to sustain such a facility and service if extensive security requirements such as passenger screening were to be introduced;

- f) We have no concerns about privacy implications of greater security measures provided the agencies involved comply with any privacy legislation in place;
- g) We have no concerns with the use of advanced technologies such as weapons detection equipment if the identified security risk warrants such measures.

I would be happy to appear before the Committee to expand on the submission set out above and to answer any questions.

Yours faithfully,

**WR WATKINS OAM**  
**SA DELEGATE TO THE AAA**