

File 411-6

12 September 2003

Dr John Carter
Inquiry Secretary
Review of Aviation Security in Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Carter

REVIEW OF AVIATION SECURITY IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Local Government Association offers this brief submission to reinforce the views expressed by many local councils and regional airport operators on the need for a practical and affordable approach to aviation security.

Over 200 airports are owned and operated by local government. In many cases, these facilities are critical to the timely provision of essential health, professional and business services.

The rising cost of operating and maintaining regional airports has placed the viability of many of them in jeopardy. The issues involved are discussed in ALGA's submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services Inquiry into Commercial Regional Aviation Services, a copy of which is attached.

While ALGA appreciates the need to ensure adequate, risk-based, security for air travellers, this must not mean that local communities and councils have to pay for enhanced security. This responsibility lies squarely at the door of the Australian Government. Indeed, any significant new security costs may well lead to the closure of some rural and remote airports, with serious social and economic consequences for their communities.

We thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Ian Chalmers
Chief Executive