



27 September 2018

Dr Sean Turner  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Via email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Turner,

**Inquiry into the Aviation Transport Security Amendment Bill 2018 [provisions]**

Regional Express Holdings Limited welcomes the opportunity to submit to the Committee's Inquiry into the Aviation Transport Security Amendment Bill 2018 [provisions] and offers the following comments.

Regional Express (Rex) is Australia's largest independent regional airline operating a fleet of more than 50 Saab 340 aircraft on some 1,500 weekly flights to 60 destinations throughout all states in Australia. In addition to the regional airline Regional Express, the Rex Group comprises wholly owned subsidiaries Pel-Air Aviation (air freight and charter operator), and the Australian Airline Pilot Academy.

Regional Express welcomes any move by Government to reduce the administrative burden on low risk limited resourced regional aviation operators. As stated by Minister Dutton in Parliament on 19 September 2018, "It is vital, however, to balance aviation security needs with maintaining a viable aviation sector, particularly in regional Australia. Not all industry participants face the same level of risk."

The development of a TSP under the draft Section 26B which prescribes measures and procedures without taking into account the local resource limitations and possible alternative measures and procedures which can achieve the same desired outcomes could increase the cost burden on a lower risk operator.

It is therefore imperative that the Department develops robust and transparent procedures to ensure that the draft Section 26C (1) (c) "be appropriate for the operations or locations covered by the program" is fully considered. Regional Express believes that a full consultation between the Department and the individual operator must be undertaken prior to any TSP being issued, thus ensuring that viable and affordable measures and procedures which achieve the desired outcomes are prescribed in the TSP.

Yours Sincerely,

Derek Trafford  
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