



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Submission to the Inquiry into the Aviation Transport Security Amendment Bill 2018 [Provisions]

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Aviation Transport Security Amendment Bill 2018

The Department of Home Affairs (the Department) is further strengthening aviation security, including through implementing the recommendations of the Inspector of Transport Security's *Review into Security at Australian Security Regulated Airports 2017* (ITS Review).

The Bill proposes to amend the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004* to allow the Secretary of the Department to give an aviation industry participant (such as an airport or aircraft operator) a transport security program (TSP) that sets out the security requirements it must meet.

Currently, all security regulated industry participants need to prepare and maintain a comprehensive TSP that sets out the security measures and procedures they have in place in order to meet their regulatory obligations. In contrast, a Secretary-issued TSP will outline the security obligations for industry participants with lower risk operations, while still maintaining security outcomes.

The introduction of a Secretary-issued TSP is consistent with the ITS Review.

How a Secretary-issued TSP will work in practice

Only industry participants assessed as having lower risk profiles will be eligible to receive a Secretary-issued TSP; for example, a smaller regional airport. Risk assessments are informed by intelligence and the characteristics of industry participants, such as: location; proximity to iconic or critical infrastructure; regular passenger numbers; and the types of services provided.

All industry participants regulated under the Secretary-issued TSP will be bound to comply with the security requirements set out in the TSP, and must have security measures, policies and procedures in place to meet those requirements.

The Department will continue to maintain a program of compliance activities to ensure industry participants uphold their security requirements stated in their TSPs.

Benefits

The benefit of this approach is that lower risk industry participants can direct their resources to maintaining security measures rather than towards document preparation. The Department will also be able to direct its resources towards higher risk compliance activities, rather than assessing bespoke TSPs for lower risk aviation industry participants.

The Secretary-issued TSP will also provide a more consistent approach to aviation security across smaller operators. This approach will uphold security outcomes while ensuring security measures and costs are commensurate with risk.

Consultation

The Department consulted with all security controlled airports about the introduction of a Secretary-issued TSP. To date, industry has been supportive of the approach which sees a reduced regulatory burden, yet still ensures security outcomes are delivered.

Regional airports likely to be affected by this Bill support the proposal, and have not raised any concerns. The Department will work closely with industry to develop the content of the TSP document. The Department continues to engage regularly with industry on aviation security initiatives, including through the Aviation Security Advisory Forum and the Regional Industry Consultative Forum.