



Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Dunstone

Inquiry into the Transport Security Amendment (Serious Crime) Bill 2019

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 December 2019 inviting Airservices Australia (Airservices) to make a submission to the inquiry into the Transport Security Amendment (Serious Crime) Bill 2019.

Airservices is a government-owned organisation providing safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible services to the aviation industry. This includes providing air traffic services, aviation rescue firefighting services, aeronautical information, radio navigation and telecommunications services.

Each year we manage over four million aircraft movements carrying more than 90 million passengers, and provide air navigation services across 11 per cent of the world's airspace.

Our services are provided from facilities across Australia including two major operating centres in Melbourne and Brisbane, two terminal control units in Sydney and Perth (which is a joint facility with Defence), and 29 air traffic control towers at international and regional airports. We also provide Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting services at 27 of Australia's busiest airports.

As an Aviation Industry Participant, Airservices Australia supports the Transport Security Amendment (Serious Crime) Bill, which seeks to reduce the ability of organised crime groups to engage in illegal activities at Australia's airports and seaports. Airservices values our position as an Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) Issuing Body to ensure those who have unescorted access to our facilities are vetted to the highest level.

The proposed strengthening of background checks to include a history of serious crime will strengthen our ability to adequately scrutinise individuals including those who may intentionally seek to abuse the privilege the access an ASIC provides. Airservices takes personnel security seriously; we have supplemented our ASIC Program with background checks required for all staff and contractors who have access to our facilities and systems, whether at an airport or one of our other facilities. The introduction of the Serious Crime Bill is a necessary step in ensuring the integrity of security-sensitive environments around our ports.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry, Airservices is happy to provide any additional information that will assist the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Harfield
Chief Executive Officer
16 January 2020