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President Michele O'Neil Secretary Sally McManus

ACTU D. No 02/2020
17 January 2020

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Via email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Transport Security Amendment (Serious Crime) Bill 2019

To Whom it may concern,

The ACTU, formed in 1927, is the peak body for Australian unions and is the only national union confederation in Australia. For more than 90 years, the ACTU has played the leading role in advocating for the rights and conditions of working people and their families. The ACTU is made up of 39 affiliated unions and trades and labour councils, and we represent almost 2 million working people across all industries. Many of the members of our affiliated unions work in sectors affected by this legislation and as such we are pleased to have the opportunity to support the submissions made by their representative unions.

The ACTU shares the concerns expressed by our affiliated unions that the changes proposed in this bill have been developed without the typical level of consultation with affected workers and their unions – consultation which has typically resulted in more effective and well-targeted security legislation in the transport field. It is equally troubling that the proposed amendments could be interpreted as increasing the burden placed on workers in the sector in order to maintain their ASIC/MSIC card while also watering down the focus of security regime of which it forms a part.

I hope that the Committee will seriously consider the evidence provided by our affiliated unions regarding their concerns about the existing transport security regime and the impact the changes proposed in this bill will have on both the efficacy of that regime and the ability of workers to continue to do their jobs safely and securely.

Regards,

Liam O'Brien
Assistant Secretary