



Police Federation
of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

ABN 31 384 184 778



19 October 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Aviation Crimes and Policing Legislation Amendment Bill 2010

It is with pleasure that I make this submission on behalf of the Police Federation of Australia (PFA) which represents the professional and industrial interests of Australia's 54,000 police officers.

The PFA supports the general thrust of the Bill.

In our submission to the Federal Audit of Police Capabilities conducted by Roger Beale AO in 2009 we raised our concerns about the Airport Policing Model then in place.

We said in our submission –

'The PFA recently examined the police resources applied to policing the eleven major airports under the AFP's Unified Policing Model which is based on the AFP and State and territory police sharing responsibility for providing police resources for the airports under AFP control.

*The **PFA submission to the Government's Aviation Green Paper** set out our findings. We concluded that the (then) current model of airport policing was a failure and should be reformed so that the AFP has sole responsibility for major airport policing. Sadly, the fatal bashing at Sydney Airport allegedly by bikie gang members tends to confirm our view of the shortcomings of the (then) current airport policing model.*

It is worth remembering that Sir John Wheeler settled on the shared responsibility model because, at the time, the AFP did not have the police

capacity to undertake the airport policing itself. In the PFA's view it is time the AFP developed the capacity to undertake that function in full.'

The PFA also supports the plan by the Government to 'train up' and ultimately swear in as fully sworn police officers, those Protective Services Officers who undertake the training and pass the evaluation.

In a recent submission to all political parties in the lead up to the 2010 Federal Election we said –

"The PFA is adamant that, to avoid the introduction of a 'second tier of policing', the powers, uniforms and vehicles of police officers should be reserved for sworn police and any non-sworn support staff should be easily distinguishable from police by members of the community".

In response the Government said –

"Federal Labor agrees that policing powers, uniforms and vehicles should be reserved for sworn police. The nature of police work is unique and carries unique responsibilities. It is not appropriate to confer police or police like owners on non-sworn personnel that don't have the same level of responsibility or training".

Our concerns in this area were primarily in response to the AFP placing Protective Services Officers in marked vehicles that are easily mistaken by the general public as 'police' vehicles as well as placing Protective Services Officers in almost identical uniforms to police.

We are hopeful that this Bill will alleviate some of those problems into the future, particularly at major airports under the new All-In Model of Airport Policing which we support.

Yours sincerely

Mark Burgess
Chief Executive Officer