

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group: 3

Program: General

Question: BE14/005

Senator Whish-Wilson asked the following question at the hearing on 26-29 May 2014:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Senator Brandis, could you please take on notice what, if the airport is to be transitioned to an international airport by extending the runway in the next few years, the process would be to bring back the Federal Police. I think that is the expectation in Tasmania, especially within the tourism industry—that we are going to get international flights once that runway has been extended.

Senator Brandis: The first part of your question is really a matter for the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development. I am not sure who represents him in the Senate, but it is a question you might to care to ask in the Senate Committee for Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport later in the fortnight. In relation to the second part of the question, I will take that on notice.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Government's decision to withdraw Australian Federal Police (AFP) resources from Hobart Airport followed careful consideration of any need to maintain an AFP response capability at the airport within the predicted threat and risk environment. This was in line with the Government's aviation security objective of a layered and proportionate response to threats; aligning resources against threat profile. The future direction and associated policy matters relating to aviation security at Hobart Airport will continue to be consistent with Government's aviation security objectives.