

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

**Group: 3**

**Program: Other Agency**

**Question No. SBE14/199**

**Senator Xenophon asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.**

Have Australian airports been recently assessed by ASIO or other relevant bodies in relation to security issues?

1. When did these assessments take place?
2. Will there be further assessments now that Australia's threat level has increased?

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

ASIO provides protective security advice and security intelligence advice to government and private owners and operators of national critical infrastructure, including aviation. Key elements of this work are vulnerability assessments, protective security risk reviews and the delivery of security design evaluations. Additionally, the National Threat Assessment Centre produces scheduled broad aviation threat assessments and also discrete threat assessments as required on specific threats to aviation.

All critical infrastructure sectors, including aviation, were recently reviewed following the increase in the general terrorism threat level and, as for all threat levels, these remain under review.

We judge that vulnerability assessments – conducted in consideration of current terrorist attack methodologies - remain current, with the exception of any major refurbishment activity. Should the Office of Transport Security request updated vulnerability assessments from ASIO, ASIO will include that activity in our forward work program.

Vulnerability assessments of all major Australian airports, along with a sample of regional screened airports, were undertaken by ASIO during 2008 and 2009. These assessments were undertaken at the request of the Department of Infrastructure, Office of Transport Security as a result of the Wheeler review.