

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 122

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Hobart Airport – Australian Federal Police

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Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

The Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police has confirmed in correspondence that the Office of Transport Security was consulted about the likely security risks at Hobart International Airport on 17 March 2014. The Office of Transport Security gave evidence to Estimates Hearings in both May and October 2014 that they were not consulted about the decision to remove AFP officers from Hobart airport. They then amended their advice shortly after.

1. In light of the heightened security concerns the Prime Minister outlined in his National Security speech has the Office for Transport Security asked the AFP to review its decision to removed AFP officers from the Hobart Airport?
2. Has the Tasmanian Government made any representations to the Minister or the Department raising concerns about the security risks at the Hobart airport as a result of the decision to remove AFP officers?
3. When and how was it brought to your attention that your evidence to this Committee in relation to consultation with the AFP in relation to the Hobart International Airport was false and needed to be amended?
4. Can you explain why you did not know in May and in October that this consultation had occurred in March?
5. When the Office of Transport Security was consulted by the Attorney-General's Department on 17 March 2014 about "likely security risks at Hobart International Airport" was the issue of the removal of AFP officers from the Hobart International Airport specifically raised?
What were the specific concerns raised if any about the loss of AFP at the airport?
6. Were there any further consultations between the Attorney-General's Department and the Office of Transport Security in regards to security risks at the Hobart International Airport prior to the announcement of the decision to remove AFP officers from the airport?
7. If yes, can you please provide the date and method of all consultations (i.e. face to face meeting, teleconference, email exchange etc.) between the Attorney-General's Department and the Office of Transport Security in relation to the removal of AFP officers from the Hobart International Airport?
8. Did the Office of Transport Security undertake a risk analysis on the security implications of removing AFP officers from the Hobart International Airport?
9. When was the Office of Transport Security informed of the final decision to remove AFP officers from the Hobart International Airport?
10. Has the Office of Transport Security been consulted in relation to the transition security arrangements in place at the Hobart International Airport?

Answer:

1. No.
2. No.
3. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) brought the issue to the attention of the Department on 28 October 2014.
4. It was an error on the part of the Department, which was corrected on the same day that it was brought to the Department's attention.
5. The Attorney-General's Department emailed the Department late on the morning of 17 March 2014 asking whether it agreed to an assessment of counter-terrorist risk in relation to Hobart Airport set out in a draft

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new policy proposal (NPP) proposing a withdrawal of the AFP presence at Hobart International Airport. The Department was asked to comment as quickly as possible that day, and the Attorney-General's Department were advised the same day that the Office of Transport Security's judgement was that Hobart Airport would be a low risk from a security threat perspective.

The Office of Transport Security did not raise any specific concerns raised regarding the withdrawal of AFP resources from Hobart Airport.

6. No.
7. N/A (see previous answer).
8. No, as there was no need to conduct a risk analysis for the transition of counter-terrorist first response services from one approved provider to another (i.e. AFP to Tasmania Police).
9. The Department was informed of the final decision to remove AFP officers from Hobart International Airport on 14 May 2014, through the budget processes.
10. The Department has worked with Hobart International Airport and the AFP to support a smooth transition of security arrangements.