

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016
Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 116

Program: n/a

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Deployment of Australian Federal Police officers at Hobart airport

Proof Hansard Page: 38 (28 May 2015)

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: I have a question about the Australian Federal Police, particularly in Hobart airport. Given the government's recent announcement of a task force to counter issues associated with the ice epidemic and mooted upgrades to Hobart International Airport, does the government have any plans to reinstate Australian Federal Police officer positions in Tasmania at the Hobart airport?

Mr Wilson: Unfortunately, that is actually a question that you would need to ask the AFP in regard to whether they have any plans to reinstate their forces in Hobart. From this portfolio's point of view, we are unaware of any plans that they may have to do so.

Senator URQUHART: But you deal with transport security, so would you not be aware if they were going to reinstate?

Mr Wilson: If they were going to, I would assume that we would be aware, but I cannot—

Senator URQUHART: So you have not asked that question?

Ms Wimmer: We talk to the AFP quite frequently, obviously, given their position at the airports. We have not had any conversation with them that they are likely to change their current position around Hobart airport.

Senator URQUHART: Can I ask you then to take that on notice and come back with a confirmation?

Mr Wilson: We can certainly clarify as to whether or not they have any plans.

Senator URQUHART: Thank you.

Answer:

The AFP has advised that the decision to withdraw resources from Hobart Airport followed careful consideration of the threat/risk environment at the airport as well as the number of Commonwealth-related offences to which it responded. The AFP has also advised the Department that at this point in time it does not plan to reinstate a community policing capability at Hobart Airport.