

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

Question no.: 206

Programme: n/a

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Port on the Tiwi Islands

Proof Hansard Page: 55 (20 October 2014)

Senator Peris asked:

Senator PERIS: A port has been installed on the Tiwi islands, on Melville Island. Are you able to advise on the current status of the port in relation to international accreditation?

Mr Mrdak: No.

Ms O'Connell: No; it might be a state issue—

Mr Mrdak: Unless it is a security regulation issue. We have a role in port security, but in relation to other matters, I am not familiar. Let me check whether we have anything on that and I will come back to you.

...

Senator PERIS: So from your understanding, this port, that on its website has been given international accreditation, does not have anything around—

Mr Mrdak: Not that I and the officers at the table are aware of. I will check. We have our Office of Transport Security officers appearing later in the day. I will take your question on notice and come back either later in the day or as soon as possible with details of any involvement we have.

Answer:

The Department is not aware of any international accreditation that relates to transport security.

The Port does not yet have approval under the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003* (MTOFSA) to receive security-regulated ships engaged in international voyages.

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Question no.: 207

Programme: N/A

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Oil and Gas Security Forum

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Sterle asked:

1. What is the purpose of the OGSF?
2. Who determines the make-up of the OGSF?
3. Does the support of the workforce aid security of our offshore facilities? Or is it irrelevant?
4. Please list all current corporate members of the Forum, and the location of their Head Office?
5. Do you acknowledge that union representatives have been attending the Forum since it was formed by John Howard in 2001?
6. Have they been good attenders?
7. You would be aware that the union representative was advised that he should not continue to attend this forum in July?
8. At what date was the decision taken to refuse to allow the union representative to attend?
9. Did a representative of the MUA attend that meeting?
10. Was the MUA present when this matter of future attendance was discussed?
11. Who raised the matter of ongoing involvement of unions? Was it an oil or gas company?
12. Is the OTS aware of the MUA paper identifying foreign workers in the oil and gas sectors as a security vulnerability?
13. Is the exclusion of unions a direct response to the political lobbying of oil majors like Chevron or because the MUA paper is at odds with government policy?
14. Do you accept that there are companies that have robust industrial relations with maritime unions on the Forum?
15. Has the Department or OTS had any contact with the Minister's office on this matter?
16. How was a vote taken and has there ever been a vote in any of these forum in its history?
17. Are there minutes of this meeting? Can you make them available to the Committee?
18. Did any public servants cast a vote? How did he/she/they vote?
19. Did any public servants raise any concerns about the decision to exclude the MUA?
20. Can you assure the Senate that the decision on the Forum to exclude the MUA is consistent with Australia's national interest?

Answer:

1. The Oil and Gas Security Forum (OGSF) provides an avenue for information sharing and consultation on oil and gas 'all hazard' security matters for owners and operators of oil and gas critical infrastructure.
2. The OGSF comprises representatives of the owners and operators of oil and gas critical infrastructure. Membership is determined by majority vote of the non-government/corporate members of the Forum.
3. All individuals involved in the oil and gas sector play a role in security issues.
4. The Department cannot list the current members of the OGSF without their express consent.
5. The OGSF was established in 2008.
6. Yes.
7. Yes.
8. 17 June 2014.
9. Yes.
10. No.
11. Information shared at these meetings is treated confidentially. All attendees are required to sign a Deed of Confidentiality.

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12. The Department is unclear which specific paper the question is referring to.
13. No.
14. Industrial relations between organisations and the MUA are not a matter for the Department.
15. No.
16. Members voted in person at the meeting. Yes.
17. Yes. The summary of outcomes are confidential and for the use of OGSF members only.
18. No.
19. No.
20. In accordance with the Terms of Reference, membership is determined by the members of the Forum.

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Question no.: 208

Programme: n/a

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Aviation Security

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

Is there a formal process for consultation between the Office of Transport Security and the Australian Federal Police on Aviation Security?

Answer:

No. There are no formal processes for consultation between the Office of Transport Security (OTS) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP). However the OTS and AFP regularly engage with each other on a range of aviation security matters.

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Question no.: 209

Programme: n/a

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Briefings on Security at the Hobart Airport

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

Has the Office of Transport Security provided any briefings to the Minister on security at the Hobart International Airport? If so, on what date?

Answer:

The Minister was broadly briefed on a more risk-based, proportionate approach to aviation security regulation. This included reference to Hobart Airport, on 12 November 2014.

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Question no.: 210

Programme: n/a

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Staff in Tasmania

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

Does the Office of Transport Security have any staff located in Tasmania?

Answer:

No

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Question no.: 211

Programme: n/a

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Security Concerns at Australian Airports

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

In July this year, Channel 7 show Today Tonight aired an episode about security concerns at Australian airports. Is the division familiar with the concerns raised in this program? Does the division have responses to any of the security examples discussed on the program?

Answer:

- The Division is aware of the programme aired by Channel Seven on 24 July 2014 on security at Australian airports.
- Robust and layered security arrangements are in place at Australia's airports. This approach ensures that no one layer of security can be the single point of failure.
- Aviation security layers include work by other agencies such as the Australian Federal Police and intelligence community. Physical security layers applied at airports include:
 - the screening of all passengers, carry-on baggage and checked baggage;
 - background checking, access controls to sensitive areas and face to ID checks;
 - on-board security measures such as hardened cockpit doors and in-flight security officers;
 - front of house security measures (for the front and publically accessible area of an airport);
 - perimeter fences and security patrols; and
 - unattended baggage processes.

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Programme: n/a

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Security Threat Level

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

1. I believe the AFP is currently undertaking a review of the security threat level at Australian airports and the AFP's role. Does the division have any information on when this review might be completed?
 - a. Has the division made any contribution to the review?
 - b. Will the division have any role in responding to it?
2. Is the division aware of any further inquiries or reviews into Australia's airport safety?

Answer:

1. The Office of Transport Security sought clarification from the AFP and has been advised that the AFP is not currently undertaking a review of the security threat level at Australian airports and the AFP's role.
2. Yes. The *Aviation Safety Regulation Review Report* was released on 30 May 2014. The Government expects to release its response by the end of the year. The division is also aware that both New South Wales (*Inquiry into Regional Aviation Services*, October 2014) and the Northern Territory (*Propelling the Territory Forward as Australia's Northern Aviation Gateway*, August 2014) have recently released papers which have touched on issues of airport safety.