

SUBMISSION

to the

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit



**REVIEW
OF
AVIATION SECURITY
IN
AUSTRALIA**

**Submitted by the
Department for Planning and Infrastructure
2005**

Introduction

The Western Australian (WA) Government has been interested in the developments in aviation security since the events of September 11 2001. It has generally supported the upgrading of aviation security for air travellers as a necessary measure.

Whilst aviation security is important for international, interstate and intrastate passengers, this submission will focus on the impact of security on regional aviation and the importance of striking a balance between security and affordability.

Specifically, the submission is an update of the WA Government's submission of 2004 and will now focus on Terms of Reference E- *Cost imposts of security upgrades, particularly for regional airports*.

Terms of Reference E

Cost imposts of security upgrades, particularly for regional airports

Further to the costs of providing security, the State Government through the Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) has raised with the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) the additional unforeseen infrastructure costs for regional airports in order to meet passenger-screening requirements.

For example, under the new Commonwealth airport security arrangements, the present Newman Airport terminal is not suitable to house the proposed passenger screening facilities. Consequently, in order to comply, the Shire of East Pilbara, who own the airport, has had to put in place temporary measures at its existing terminal to comply with passenger screening requirements and will need to construct a new terminal and associated infrastructure at an estimated cost of \$6 million to permanently house passenger screening facilities.

The cost of building the new terminal is well beyond the financial capacity of the Shire. DPI has raised this matter with DOTARS suggesting that the Commonwealth Government should contribute towards the cost of the terminal development.

At this point, DPI expresses its support for the Commonwealth's initiative under its Transport Security Program (TSP) that has allocated \$35 million to over 140 non-passenger screening regional airports in Australia of which 18 are in WA. Unfortunately airports, such as Newman, which receive jet services and thus undertake passenger screening, are not eligible.

With respect to the TSP \$35 million, DPI understands that there could be surplus funds. This presents a unique opportunity and DPI strongly supports that any surplus funds be recycled into airports such as Newman.

In this respect, the State Government has already contributed funds to Newman through its Regional Airports Development Scheme and proposes the Commonwealth Government enter into negotiations with the Shire and the State Government to determine an equitable arrangement to fund the terminal development at Newman Airport.

Recommendation

That the Commonwealth Government allocates surplus funds from the TSP towards the terminal development at Newman Airport.
