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10 January 2020

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: le.committee@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Re: Inquiry into an Australian Standard for the Training and Use of Privately Contracted Security and Detection Dogs

Standards Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement. In addressing the Terms of Reference, we have limited our comments in this submission to our expertise as Australia's national standards body.

Summary of key points:

- Standards Australia has commenced work to develop voluntary Australian standards for Private Sector Patrol and Detection Dogs.
- Standards Australia works with industry, government and community interests to develop and adopt voluntary, consensus-based Australian standards or other lower-consensus documents.
- Standards are voluntary documents that set out specifications, procedures and guidelines that aim to ensure products, services, and systems are safe, consistent, and reliable.
- State and Commonwealth governments often refer to Australian Standards in their legislation and regulation, reducing the need for government intervention.

Standards Australia's priority is to work with industry, government and the community to develop the right standards to provide the right solution within this complex area and help facilitate appropriate adoption and uptake.

Our work supports harmonisation across Australia's laws and regulations. Standards can be used as an alternative to regulation, reducing business costs and decreasing red tape, but still providing security for businesses and consumers.

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New Australian Standards for Private Sector Patrol and Detection Dogs

Standards Australia is currently working with industry and government to provide guidance for the provision of detection dog services (explosives and biosecurity) and patrol (security) dog services.

A project proposal was submitted and approved in December 2019 for the development of new Australian standards for Private Sector Patrol and Detection Dogs.

The scope of new Australian standards is focused on the following areas:

- Training and performance requirements for service delivery by patrol (security) and detection dogs (explosives, biosecurity).
- Requirements for handler education and training.
- Requirements for the selection, care, accommodation, welfare and breeding of these working dogs.

The new standards are to be limited to the private sector and exclude State and Federal law enforcement applications in the fields of patrol (security) and detection dogs (explosives, biosecurity).

Standards Australia's Technical Committee for *Private Security and Detection Dogs*, responsible for the development of the new standards, currently includes the following members representing a range of key stakeholders within industry and government:

- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Veterinary Association
- Working Dog Alliance
- Australian Hotels Association
- Australian Security Industry Association
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Security Providers Association of Australia Ltd

It is expected that the new Australian standards for Private Sector Patrol and Detection Dogs will be released for public comment early 2021.

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Development and introduction of New Australian Standards

Standards Australia resources standard development work where there is a view from a widespread group of stakeholders that there is a net benefit to the Australian community.

As part of this approach, we bring together relevant stakeholders to form technical committees and develop standards documents through a process of consensus. Our current catalogue consists of approximately 6000 voluntary standards across 12 sectors of the Australian economy, including energy and electrotechnology, ICT, manufacturing and consumer products and services.

Standards Australia works with all tiers of government and industry. Our standards development process creates opportunities for a robust exchange of knowledge, expertise, and perspectives in the development of consensus-based standards and other solutions to improve performance and productivity, as well as health and safety outcomes for all.

These standards are used as the benchmark of acceptability. However, it is important to note standards are voluntary on their own. It is a matter for the relevant government and regulators as to whether a standard will be referenced in legislation or required for compliance.

Recommendation:

We recommend any Australian Government response should consider referencing the new Australian Standards for Private Sector Patrol and Detection Dogs.

Further Contact

Standards Australia will continue to work closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the appropriate standards are in place to support this evolving sector.

We welcome any opportunity to further discuss ways in which we can contribute and support the Australian Government response to the Training and Use of Privately Contracted Security and Detection Dogs.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Chidgey
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Appendix A

About Standards Australia

Standards Australia is Australia's National Standards Body, with a 97-year history in developing and adopting standards to meet Australia's economic, social and community needs. We facilitate Australian participation in International Standards development, as Australia's voice and vote to both the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission). We do not enforce, regulate or certify compliance with these Standards.

We form technical committees by bringing together relevant parties and stakeholders. Through a process of consensus, these committees develop standards for Australia's net benefit. We also undertake stakeholder engagement activities to support Australian government agencies and industry partners, with identifying, developing and adopting standards for the Australian context.