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Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Border Protection

SECRETARY

ADF2016/13369

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection appreciates the opportunity to make a statement in support of the Transport Security Amendment (Serious or Organised Crime) Bill 2016.

The Department is supportive of the Bill's provisions which will amend the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004* (Transport Act) and the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003* (Maritime Act). These amendments will reduce criminal influence at Australia's airports and seaports by strengthening the aviation security identification card (ASIC) and maritime security identification card (MSIC) schemes.

The Department welcomes the extension of the current ASIC and MSIC scheme and in particular the harmonisation and widening of the eligibility criteria to better target serious or organised crime risks. This change will prevent persons with serious criminal convictions being eligible to hold an ASIC or MSIC and as such improve the Department's ability to secure Australia's borders and address vulnerabilities at airports, seaports and offshore facilities. The changes will assist in maintaining the integrity of the Australian border and contribute to aviation and maritime infrastructure security initiatives.

Yours sincerely

Michael Manthorpe PSM
Acting Secretary

30 March 2016