



## **Submission No 15**

### **Watching Brief on the War on Terrorism**

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AND TRADE

## WATCHING BRIEF ON THE WAR ON TERRORISM



### 1. Introduction

This submission describes how the Tasmanian Government is meeting its commitments under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Australia's Counter-Terrorism Arrangements (IGA)* and the *National Counter-Terrorism Plan (NCTP)*.

The purpose of the IGA is to enhance Australia's counter-terrorism capability through:

- effective nation-wide prevention, response, investigation and consequence management arrangements based on best practice;
- a comprehensive and complementary legal regime across all jurisdictions; and
- effective cooperation, coordination and consultation between all relevant agencies and jurisdictions.

The NCTP requires Tasmania to:

- Maintain counter-terrorism policies, legislation and plans within its jurisdiction;
- Maintain counter-terrorism and consequence management capabilities;
- Have primary operational responsibility to respond to a terrorist situation in Tasmania;
- Determine prevention strategies and operational responses to threats;
- Actively consider the requirement for the declaration of a national terrorist situation; and
- In a national terrorist situation, contribute to the national strategy.

### 2. Background

Tasmania has developed a comprehensive set of plans for the prevention and management of disasters. These plans were proven during a series of emergencies, including the bushfires in 1967, the Mt St Canice explosion in 1974, the Tasman Bridge collapse in 1975, and the Port Arthur massacre in 1996.

Each of these tragedies prompted a review of the State's emergency management procedures, so that by the beginning of 2001 the cooperative arrangements between emergency services and other Government agencies were among the most effective in Australia. Committees have been created at all levels of the community, to plan for, and manage disasters. Overseeing the work of these groups is the *State Disaster Committee*, established under the *Emergency Services Act 1976*, and responsible for the *Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan*.

Following the bombing of the Hilton Hotel in Sydney and other acts of politically motivated violence in the 1970s, Tasmanian joined with other jurisdictions to form the *Standing Advisory Committee for Commonwealth-State Cooperation on Protection Against Violence (SAC-PAV)*. Tasmania was a member of the Capabilities Sub-Committee of SAC-PAV and enhanced its counter-terrorism capabilities through the acquisition of equipment and participation in local and

national counter-terrorism exercises. Tasmanian police officers held the positions of Command Advisor and Bomb Response Training Advisor with SAC-PAV.

The terrorist attacks of September 2001 in the USA, and October 2002 in Bali caused all Australian jurisdictions to re-examine their assumptions about the nature and immediacy of the terrorist threat to Australia. In 2002 the *National Counter Terrorism Committee* (NCTC) commissioned an independent review of the counter-terrorism capabilities of all jurisdictions. The review identified gaps in the emergency management plans of all jurisdictions, including Tasmania.

In November 2002 the Premier of Tasmania commissioned a local multi-agency review of Tasmanian counter-terrorism arrangements. The project made a number of recommendations in relation to coordination arrangements for counter-terrorism. The new arrangements strengthened Tasmania's approach to countering terrorism and confirmed as key principles that there needed to be:

- A whole-of-government approach to crisis management and recovery; and
- Alignment between the counter-terrorism arrangements and the existing emergency management arrangements that deal with natural disasters (an 'all hazards' approach).

The Tasmanian Government participated in the development of a new national counter-terrorism framework, leading to the IGA, which was signed in October 2002.

In the year since the IGA was signed the Tasmanian Government has significantly increased its counter-terrorism capability by:

- Conducting a multi-agency project to review Tasmania's counter-terrorism arrangements;
- Establishing new governance arrangements for consideration of counter-terrorism and other matters related to State security, including greater Ministerial involvement and creation of a State Security Advisory Group;
- Establishing a new whole-of-government Unit to support a co-ordinated government-wide response to counter-terrorism matters;
- Reviewing legislation, plans and arrangements relating to emergency management;
- Extending the cooperative relationship between emergency services to other areas of government, particularly those areas dealing with health and infrastructure;
- Working to ensure that emergency services are adequately equipped for prevention, response and recovery in relation to a range of terrorist incidents;
- Conducting a number of training exercises;
- Engaging with the private sector in relation to security and the protection of critical infrastructure; and
- Building more effective relationships with other jurisdictions to facilitate the sharing of information and resources relating to counter-terrorism.

The Government continues to evaluate its counter-terrorism arrangements to identify areas in which the State's capability can be further improved.

### **3. Coordination Arrangements**

#### **3.1 Ministerial Security Committee (MSC)**

In a terrorist situation or period of significant or increasing threat, the MSC has ultimate responsibility in Tasmania for strategies and policies relating to counter-terrorism.

The chair of the MSC is the Premier of Tasmania. The Deputy Premier and Minister for Police and Public Safety are permanent members of the committee though other ministers may attend at the invitation of the Premier. The MSC also includes the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Commissioner of Police and is supported by Tasmania's NCTC representatives.

#### **3.2 State Crisis Centre (SCC)**

The State Crisis Centre (SCC) is activated when an incident is imminent or has already occurred. The SCC provides overall strategic direction and coordinates counter-terrorism responses in consultation with the Police Operations Centre, and those of other emergency services if they have been activated. The SCC would also liaise with the National Crisis Centre and crisis centres in other jurisdictions if needed.

At the SCC will be the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Commissioner of Police, other senior members of the emergency services and other key policy advisers as may be required. When activated, appropriate Ministerial representation from the MSC will be available to provide governmental policy direction, advice and assistance to the SCC.

#### **3.3 State Security Advisory Group (SSAG)**

The SSAG was established in recognition that effective crisis management and recovery requires coordination of process and resources from many areas of Government. The SSAG provides policy advice to the Government, monitors State-wide counter-terrorism capability and reviews counter-terrorism plans and arrangements. It also provides advice in relation to the whole-of-government activities of the State Security Unit (SSU) and provides a link with the private sector and federal agencies. The SSAG meets regularly and is not just activated in a crisis situation.

Members of the SSAG advise in relation to their area of responsibility and together ensure understanding and coordination of policy, advice, operations and arrangements. The functions of the SSAG involve:

- providing strategic policy advice to relevant Ministers and agencies;
- coordinating effective State-wide counter-terrorism capability;
- reviewing counter-terrorism plans and arrangements;
- an advisory role in relation to the whole-of-government activities of the SSU;
- supporting Tasmania's representatives on the National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC); and
- liaising with relevant agencies in other jurisdictions and private organisations.

The SSAG comprises:

- Tasmanian NCTC representatives from the Department of Police and Public Safety and the Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- senior officers from the Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmanian Ambulance Service, State Emergency Service and Forensic Science Services Tasmania;
- deputy secretaries of Departments of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Primary Industries Water and Environment and Justice and Industrial Relations;
- Chief Health Officer;
- Director of Public Health; and
- Director, SSU.

This broad membership of the SSAG is particularly valuable during an incident, at which time members can provide direct support to members of the SCC if needed.

The SSAG complements the Tasmanian State Disaster Committee (SDC) and is supported by the work of various subordinate committees including.

- The Chemical/Biological/Radiological Planning Group;
- The Mass Casualty Working Group; and
- Relevant committees constituted under, or associated with, State Disaster Committee (emergency management) arrangements.

### **3.4 State Security Unit (SSU)**

The Tasmanian Government has created a new Unit consisting of 15 new positions to support of a whole-of-government response to counter-terrorism. The State Security Unit, which is located within the Department of Police and Public Safety, combines the operational and whole-of-government policy capacity for counter-terrorism activities and provides a focal point for strategies, activities, and projects involving counter-terrorism. The Government has committed \$3.7 million per annum to the SSU.

The SSU has three branches: the Policy Division, Specialist Capabilities Group (SCG), and the Search & Rescue Division.

The role of the Policy Division is to:

- Liaise with the private and non-government sector in relation to counter terrorism issues;
- Provide research and policy advice on CT and security-related issues to the MSC, SSAG, SDC and Tasmania's representatives on the NCTC;
- Identify critical infrastructure and advise owner/operators in relation to risk assessment and risk management plans;
- Communicate information on changing threat levels and special advisories received from the Australian Government or other sources;
- Audit plans and conducts exercises in relation to critical infrastructure protection;
- Coordinate the procurement and maintenance of CT equipment;
- Develop and manages a counter-terrorism exercise and training regime; and

- Liaise with other State and Commonwealth Government agencies in regard to counter-terrorism.

The role of the Specialist Capabilities Group is to:

- Establish the capability to respond quickly and effectively to specific terrorist threats;
- Provide a specialist crowd control capability;
- Provide close personal protection for dignitaries; and
- Identify equipment and training needs of specialist units.

The role of Search and Rescue Division is to coordinate search and rescue activities.

### **3.5 Emergency Management Arrangements**

The State Disaster Committee (SDC) is established by the *Emergency Services Act 1976*. Its primary role is to develop, and monitor the implementation of emergency management policy in Tasmania.

The Commissioner of Police, as Director of Emergency Services, chairs the SDC. The Committee also comprises the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), the DPAC NCTC representative and the Director of the State Emergency Service. Since 2001 the group has been informally expanded to include representatives of other emergency service agencies and the Director of the SSU.

The composition of the SDC is currently being reviewed as part of a review of the *Emergency Services Act 1976* to ensure that there is a consistency of membership between the SCC, SSAG and SDC and provide for a consistent whole-of government policy approach to the prevention and management of both natural disasters and acts of terrorism.

The SDC is supported by a range of sub-committees, including:

- Nuclear Powered Warships Visits Committee;
- Community Recovery Committee;
- State Emergency Media Committee;
- State Emergency Medical Committee;
- State Marine Pollution Committee;
- Tasmanian Coronial Services Committee;
- Tasmanian Disaster Victim Identification Committee;
- Tasmanian Hazardous Materials Management Committee;
- Tasmanian Petroleum Products Emergency Management Committee;
- Radio Users Group;
- Tasmanian Search & Rescue Committee;
- Region Disaster Planning Groups;
- Region Community Recovery Committees;
- Region Search & Rescue Liaison Committees; and

- Local Government Emergency Management Committees.

The SDC is responsible for the *Tasmanian Emergency Management Plan*. There are also three regional emergency management plans and 29 municipal emergency management plans. Plans have also been prepared in relation to specific risks, including visits of nuclear powered warships, hazardous materials and animal diseases such as Foot & Mouth. All emergency management plans are currently being reviewed to include consideration of counter-terrorism issues.

### **3.6 Joint Counter-Terrorism Task Force**

Tasmania was the first state to establish a joint task force between its police service and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) for the sharing of intelligence information.

The *Joint Counter-Terrorism Task Force* liaises with the State Intelligence Service and local police in relation to the investigation of information from the national hotline and contributes to national counter-terrorism and intelligence activities.

## **4. Legislation**

Legislation relating to counter-terrorism is under continual review, and matters are dealt with promptly as issues arise.

### **4.1 Terrorism (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2002**

Tasmania was one of the first states to pass the *Terrorism (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2002*, which refers certain matters relating to terrorist acts to the Commonwealth. These matters include offences relating to terrorist acts and the proscription of terrorist organisations.

### **4.2 Decontamination**

Tasmania was the first state to pass legislation, via amendment to the *Emergency Services Act 1976*, to enable detention of persons for the purposes of decontamination in response to the 'white powder hoaxes' during 2002. It was also the first state to declare SARS a notifiable disease.

### **4.3 Review of the Emergency Services Act 1976**

A review of this Act, which establishes the emergency management framework in Tasmania, is underway. The new Act will confirm the alignment of emergency management and counter terrorism measures and provide for use of special powers during a terrorist incident. The new Act will also provide greater flexibility than exists currently in the provisions, described above, to detain and direct people who have been, or may have been, exposed to harmful biological, chemical or radiological material, to undergo a medical examination and a decontamination procedure.

### **4.4 Freedom of Information Act 1991**

A submission is before the Government to exempt documents relating to national security, defence or international relations.

## 4.5 Further Work

A *Legislation Working Group* (LWG) has been established to review State legislation and liaise with Commonwealth agencies regarding national legislation that affects Tasmania's counter-terrorism arrangements and capabilities. Currently the LWG is assessing the need for a power to create security and exclusion zones for security operations or in response to a terrorist incident.

In parallel with the national review of regulations pertaining to hazardous materials, the Government is reviewing the Tasmanian *Dangerous Goods Act 1998* in relation to the reporting, security, storage, sale and handling of hazardous materials. The LWG will also examine the regulation of materials that, although not hazardous in their own right, may be used by terrorists.

The LWG comprises the Director, SSU and senior officials of other relevant Tasmanian Government agencies

## 5. Hazardous Goods

In August 2003 an independent media production company purchased 300kg of ammonium nitrate to make a bomb which it detonated on a rural property in Molesworth, southern Tasmania. This incident was the subject of a story on *The 7.30 Report*.

The people that built and detonated the bomb had all the necessary licenses and permissions. Although the purchase of the ammonium nitrate by the production company raised the suspicion of the seller, it was not reported to Tasmania Police or the National Security Hotline.

In December 2002 COAG agreed to a national review of the regulation regarding the reporting, security, storage, sale and handling of hazardous materials. A trial is being conducted in Queensland and a report relating to fertilisers was due in October 2003. In the meantime, the SSU is working with the Fertiliser Industry Federation of Australia (FIFA) and major fertiliser distributors to raise awareness of the counter-terrorism environment, the potential uses of their products, and the need to report suspicious behaviour.

The LWG will also examine whether demonstration explosions of the kind conducted in Molesworth should be prohibited.

Tasmania expects to fully participate in the national review of the regulation, reporting and security around the storage, sale and handling of hazardous materials, once the trial in Queensland is complete.

## 6. Critical Infrastructure Protection

The protection of critical infrastructure is a key element of Australia's counter-terrorism preparations.

The NCTC *Critical Infrastructure Protection Principles* require all State and Territory governments to:

- provide leadership and whole-of-government coordination in developing and implementing the nationally consistent approach to the protection of critical infrastructure,



- work with owners and operators to ensure that relevant capabilities are developed to protect the critical infrastructure and ensure continuity of service,
- identify critical infrastructure in their jurisdiction,
- ensure protective arrangements are in place to protect essential State/Territory government services, for example government utilities and key government facilities,
- develop and communicate on a jurisdictional basis with owners and operators of critical infrastructure the agreed type of response expected for each level of threat/alert,
- assist owners and operators of critical infrastructure in their development, validation and audit of plans,
- liaise with and support the Australian Government in critical infrastructure protection arrangements,
- communicate relevant intelligence and information to stakeholders, and
- manage and coordinate public information within the jurisdiction.

The Tasmanian Government has contacted all owners/operators of major infrastructure in Tasmania, plus all organisers of public events which are likely to attract more than 500 people.

Using a risk management methodology based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard 4360, 140 sites have been identified as critical infrastructure. The full list has been sent to ASIO as part of the development of a *National Critical Infrastructure Database*. A number of sites identified as critical infrastructure are the responsibility of the Australian Government.

The 140 sites have been prioritised, according to a number of criteria including importance, vulnerability and resilience, into Very High, High, Medium and Low. The sites identified as being in the Very High, High and Medium categories have been requested to undertake risk assessments and develop risk management plans. The SSU has begun desk and field audits of security at these sites. These audits have revealed that major industries have already factored the new threats into their risk analyses and risk management plans.

In accordance with the requirement that the Tasmanian Government 'ensure protective arrangements are in place to protect essential State government services', security audits have been conducted in relation to more than 135 State Government buildings and facilities. These audits identified a number of deficiencies and \$1.1 million has been provided in addition to normal agency capital improvement budgets to upgrade security.

Relevant Tasmanian Government agencies continue to engage with industry groups in relation to security issues. The Director SSU is a member of the national *Critical Infrastructure Advisory Council* (CIAC) and Tasmania will be represented on all of the industry advisory groups – transport, health, energy, food, communications, banking & finance, water, and emergency services - that form the *Trusted Information Sharing Network* (TISN).

The SSU is working with owners/operators of critical infrastructure to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities to provide adequate security and develop risk management plans.

## 7. Transport

Transport infrastructure is a key area of critical infrastructure that is being reviewed. Tasmanian Government agencies are working with the *Department of Transport and Regional Services* (DOTARS) in relation to aviation and maritime security.

The Tasmanian Government recently made a submission to the *Commonwealth Parliament Committee of Public Accounts and Audit's 'Review of Aviation Security in Australia'*. In its submission, the Tasmanian Government recommended that the regulation of aviation security should remain the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government to ensure compliance with international agreed aviation security regimes and to ensure consistency within and across Australian jurisdictions. The Tasmanian Government also raised concerns with the lack of support for security arrangements in smaller regional airports and freight services and the impact that this has on the integrity of the aviation security arrangements. These sentiments have been reinforced in a submission to the *Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet*, which is co-ordinating a reassessment of the policy settings related to aviation security on behalf of the *Secretaries Committee on National Security*.

A similar issue faces Tasmanian sea ports. Significant upgrades, requiring considerable investment, will be required to meet the requirements of the *International Ship and Port Facility Security Code*. The Tasmanian Government is liaising with the Commonwealth in relation to the *Maritime Transport Security Bill* and associated regulations.

Relevant Tasmanian Government agencies are working with airports, sea ports and DOTARS to facilitate the introduction of appropriate security measures while maintaining the economic viability of operations.

At the May 2003 meeting of the *Australian Transport Council*, Transport Ministers agreed to the development of a National Transport Security Strategy and work on the following transport security priorities:

- expansion of the menu of possible preventive security measures to correspond to the four levels of national alert for urban mass transit;
- implementation of the new maritime preventive security regulatory framework;
- review of container security initiatives; and
- dangerous goods.

Tasmania has worked with the *Transport Security Working Group* to identify security measures for urban mass transport that correspond to the four levels of national security alert. These measures will be refined and implemented following risk assessments early in 2004.

Tasmanian Government agencies are also contributing to:

- The review of the *Australian Dangerous Goods Code* by the National Road Transport Commission (NRTC);
- The review of security arrangements for the transport of explosives under the *Australian Explosives Code*; and
- The review of maritime container security.

Consistent with Tasmania's whole-of-government approach to counter-terrorism, while transport security issues are the responsibility of the Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy & Resources (DIER), all relevant proposals are developed in consultation with the SSU and the SSAG.

## **8. Counter-Terrorism Capabilities**

The Tasmanian Government is enhancing many aspects of the State's counter-terrorism capability but it has concentrated its efforts on three areas:

- a) Chemical/Biological/Radiological (CBR) threats;
- b) Bomb threats; and
- c) Mass casualty events.

### **8.1 CBR Threats**

A whole-of-Government *CBR Incident Response Plan* has been developed. This plan establishes cooperative procedures between agencies for a timely and effective response to CBR incidents. The *CBR Incident Response Plan* complements the NCTP. Tasmania is represented on the *National CBR Working Group* which is chaired by Emergency Management Australia.

Personal protection and detection equipment for dealing with CBR threats has been purchased for use by Tasmania's emergency services agencies. Following the meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on 6 December 2002, the Tasmanian Government committed to purchasing equipment for use by Tasmania Police. The initial cost of the equipment was \$537,000, with a recurrent cost of \$100,000 per annum. This equipment complements other CBR equipment provided, with the financial assistance of Emergency Management Australia, to other emergency responders (mainly Fire and Ambulance). This equipment allows personnel from all emergency services agencies to operate in a CBR contaminated environment.

Standing Operating Procedures have been developed for when the Alert Level is raised to High or Extreme. These procedures describe the responsibilities of each agency in relation to CBR incidents. A CBR task force has been established for first response to CBR incidents.

The *CBR Response Planning Group* identified a need for a capability to perform urgent analysis of suspected biological agents in Tasmania. The upgrade of the Government's Mt Pleasant laboratories to Physical Containment Level 3 (PC3) standard will be completed in November 2003.

Training has been provided to several agencies in relation to the management of CBR incidents and further training needs have been identified (See Section 9).

### **8.2 Bomb Threats**

Tasmania's bomb response capability has been enhanced by the establishment of a *Bomb Detector Dog Unit* within the *Department of Police and Public Safety*. The Unit consists of two Bomb Detector Dogs and their handlers. Both dogs and handlers are currently being trained in Victoria and are expected to start service in November.

The Government has acquired over \$500,000 of equipment for the *Bomb Response Group* including a 'motorized carryall', bomb blast suits, night viewing equipment, X-ray machines, and blast mitigation equipment. This equipment has improved Tasmania's capacity to respond, detect, assess and 'render-safe' explosive devices. The Bomb Response Group is now able to operate effectively at night and mitigate the effects of a medium sized car bomb.

### **8.3 Mass Casualty Events**

A *Mass Casualties Working Group* has been established and the *Department of Health and Human Services* (DHHS), through the Tasmanian Ambulance Service and Public Hospitals, has developed detailed plans in relation to management of mass casualty events.

The Tasmanian Ambulance Service maintains a *Multiple Casualty Incident Plan* which focuses on triage, initial patient treatment and transport to appropriate medical facilities. Major public and private hospitals maintain plans dealing with emergencies external to the hospital site (*Code Brown*), including those relating to mass casualties.

The State's largest hospital, the Royal Hobart, has significantly enhanced its external disaster plan since the Port Arthur shootings in 1996 and the Bali bombing in 2002. A redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital Emergency Department, which will commence early in 2004, will provide additional capacity to respond to mass casualty incidents.

More modelling is required to better quantify the number of casualties that can be accommodated by the State's health system in an emergency. Clearly the capacity of both public and private hospitals to accept mass casualties will vary according to the nature of the incident and the severity of injuries. Whilst the public hospital system, for example, may be able to accommodate short notice casualties requiring differing levels of dependency (including ICU), actual emergency capacity is dependent of a range of factors, not least of which is the current level of hospital activity, including levels of occupancy. The ability of public hospitals to accept mass casualties is affected by the ability of other public and private facilities to accept transfer of lower dependency patients in order to free additional ward space.

Given the comparatively limited capacity (compared to mainland States) of Tasmanian health facilities to cope with mass casualties, it is anticipated that interstate support would be sought in the event of a major health emergency with mass casualties. This would take the form of requesting medical staff to supplement Tasmanian resources, and through transferring some patients to interstate hospitals. This would be coordinated through the *Australian Health Disaster Management Policy Committee* framework.

A recent development in relation to mass casualty planning is the work of DHHS in developing a *Plan for the Management of Major Epidemics and Related Biological Incidents*. This plan is in the final stages of development and specifically provides for a whole of State approach to managing large numbers of patients arising from either an epidemic or biological agent, the latter through either accidental release or deliberate terrorist attack. The plan uses a generic and flexible approach to management of a major health emergency from which mass casualties might be expected, and incorporates the use of all public and private health facilities, including private practitioners, coordinated under the management of a senior *Departmental Incident Coordinator*.

## **8.4 Other Capabilities**

In addition to the equipment described above, the Tasmanian Government has purchased encrypted radio communication equipment, infra-red cameras and fibrescopes for emergency services personnel. It has also acquired specialised equipment for negotiators, surveillance and intelligence groups for hostage, siege and kidnap situations.

The Government has established a first response Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team which is available 24 hours a day. It is also formalising mutual aid arrangements with Victoria and NSW for USAR support. The State has purchased hydraulic cutting equipment, search cameras and seismic trapped person locators to provide a higher level USAR capability. Funding has been allocated to purchase specialist transporters for USAR equipment. The Government has trained five persons to USAR category 2 standard and will train another seven persons to the same standard in the next six months.

The events of 11 September 2001 demonstrated the value of high quality, easily accessible digital-mapping data during emergencies. The Tasmanian Government has developed a Memorandum of Understanding between emergency services and the State's core mapping data custodian - the *Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment* - to ensure that emergency services have access to comprehensive and up-to-date geographic data 24 hours a day. The *Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment* will contribute specialist modelling, analysis and presentation skills to emergency services in the event of an emergency.

## **9. Training and Exercises**

A comprehensive training needs analysis has been conducted to identify gaps in skills and knowledge relating to counter-terrorism. The provision of training has been given the highest priority.

The Tasmania *Special Capabilities Group* works closely with Victoria Police in relation to training for incidents involving the Bass Strait Ferries, airports and sea ports. Tasmania sent umpires and observers to major exercises in other states, including *New Dawn* in Victoria and *Raw Horizon* in Western Australia.

In addition to these national exercises, Tasmania is engaged in a program of local exercises that involve all Government agencies and test response and recovery in relation to terrorist incidents and natural disasters. Some of the major initiatives during the last year have been:

- Police Operations Centre and Police Forward Command exercises;
- Training and exercises relating to CBR and HazMat (hazardous materials);
- Training and exercises relating to bomb incidents, including post bomb blast analysis, bomb search coordination and response to an underwater bomb blast;
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) exercises;
- An exercise and development of protocols for the management of incidents on the Bass Strait ferries;
- Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) exercises;
- Disaster planning exercises with the District Planning Groups;
- An NCTC Handbook discussion exercise for all relevant agencies;

- Discussion exercises in relation to incident involving the ABT railway; and
- Exercise writing and control courses.

Tasmania's counter-terrorism capabilities will be assessed during a major Multi-Jurisdictional Exercise (MJEX) in April 2004. The exercise will address all aspects of Tasmania's preparedness for a terrorist incident, including operational procedures and coordination arrangements (both within Tasmania and with other jurisdictions). There will be several lead up discussion exercises before this major exercise, including a State Crisis Centre training and discussion exercise in February 2004.

## 10. Cooperation & Coordination with Other Jurisdictions

The establishment of effective communication channels with other jurisdictions is essential to Tasmania's counter-terrorism capabilities.

Tasmania is represented at Deputy Head of Agency level on the main national security bodies: the NCTC and the NCTC Executive.

The Director SSU is a member of the CIAC and relevant Tasmanian Government agencies will be represented on all the industry advisory groups that form the TISN.

Tasmania was the first state to establish a joint task force between its police service and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) for the sharing of intelligence information.

ASIO has made a considerable effort to improve communication with relevant Tasmanian Government agencies in the last year. Nevertheless, Tasmania remains the only State without a permanent ASIO office. The Government will continue to assess whether the lack of an ASIO presence in this state has a detrimental effect on its ability to respond to terrorist threats.

Tasmanian Government agencies have long-established strong relationships with the Commonwealth Government's *Protective Security Co-ordination Centre (PSCC)*. More recently the Government has begun liaising with the *Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet* in relation to counter-terrorism issues. Other Commonwealth Government agencies such as the *Department of Transport and Regional Services* and the *Department of Health and Ageing* are also engaging their Tasmanian agency counterparts regarding counter-terrorism. From the Tasmanian perspective the SSAG provides the mechanism for State agencies to share information about this contact so that a consistent Tasmanian whole-of-government approach is maintained and supported.

The SSU continues to develop relationships with equivalent bodies in other jurisdictions. It has already established a strong cooperative relationship with Victoria Police in relation to training exercises.

## 11. Media & Communications

The responsibility for media liaison during an emergency lies with Tasmania Police. The emergency media liaison office will support the SCC. It will also liaise with the Commonwealth Government to ensure that a nationally consistent message is being disseminated. The

emergency media liaison office will operate in accordance with the National Security Public Information Guidelines (NSPIG).

Tasmanian Government media liaison personnel have attended a number of national courses regarding the dissemination of public information during emergencies.

## 12. Conclusion

Tasmania's emergency management arrangements have served the state well over the last fifty years. It was never the Government's intention to 'start again from scratch' but to build new capabilities in relation to counter-terrorism (eg. CBR and bomb threats) onto existing foundations.

Tasmanian Government agencies are working together to develop and implement a comprehensive whole-of-government response to the threat of terrorism. Agencies have also formed strong cooperative relationships with other jurisdictions in relation to counter-terrorism. This level of contact can be expected to grow and prove even more beneficial in the future.

During the next year the Tasmanian Government's work program will see:

- Development of more detailed plans relating to counter-terrorism threats that take account of the lessons learnt from exercises, including the MJEX in March 2004;
- Enhancement of the State's capabilities in relation to urban search and rescue and mass casualties through the purchase of technologically advanced equipment and training;
- Continuation of work with owner/operators of critical infrastructure in relation to risk assessments and risk management plans;
- Work with the State's 29 Local Government councils in relation to their emergency management plans and planning regimes; and
- Further review of State legislation, including exclusion zones and hazardous goods.

In the last year the Tasmanian Government has invested over \$5.4 million in improving its counter terrorism capabilities – consisting of \$3.7 million to establish the SSU, \$1.1 million to improve the security of State Government buildings, and \$537,000 for CBR Personal Protection Equipment.

The Government acknowledges the assistance of Emergency Management Australia and the NCTC in providing CBR equipment to the value of \$1.2 million, and bomb mitigation equipment to the value of \$225,000 respectively.

Tasmania continues to meet all its commitments under the IGA and NCTP and has addressed the shortcomings identified in reviews of its counter-terrorism capabilities. All Australians can be confident that Tasmania continues to have the capability to respond in a timely and effective manner to a range of terrorist threats.