



Civil Liberties Australia Inc. A04043

Ms Sharon Bird MP, Chair
Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications, House of Representatives
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ACT 2600

Dear Chair

Civil Liberties Australia asks the Committee to reject the 'Scanners' bill unanimously and in its entirety, on these principles and for these reasons:

- The proposed scanners infringe the civil liberties of Australians, in terms of freedom of movement without unreasonable interference, because existing anti-terrorism technology has done a proven excellent job for more than a decade since "9/11";
- The proposed scanners offer no practical improvement on existing airport technology and, in fact, quite probably (from overseas test results) will increase the false positives;
- Australians are being given no choice about being forcibly subjected to the scanners, which is a complete denial of civil liberties and at odds with all other scanning/security systems under which options are available;
- The Committee should ask for access to, and consider with favour, the first Transport Department report, which rejected the need for such scanners;
- The scanners, for which Australia will pay about \$1/4 Billion in total costs, are proposed solely at the request/demand of another nation: if another nation wants Australia to scan people for its benefit, it should pay;
- CLA notes that two of the most security-conscious nations on earth – Israel and Germany – have rejected using the proposed technology: Germany has rejected the precise scanner proposed for Australia because of alleged poor performance in tests;
- At some stage/time, the government of Australia must start to return Australia towards our traditional freedoms of movement, speech and assembly which existed before 9/11, otherwise the terrorists continue to win. CLA believes this is a good opportunity for the Committee to indicate to the government that it should reject imposts from terrorists and another nation, and insist on Australia being Australia, and maintaining our freedoms.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kristine Klugman
President
5 March 2012

NB: CLA would be happy to appear at a Committee hearing.

Committee members may wish to view a short video explaining our position to the people:
<http://www.cla.asn.au/>

Background:

Civil Liberties Australia is the leading national body working to protect the freedoms of Australians to be who and what they are with the minimum practical interference from governments, bureaucrats, police and security forces.

We stand for the traditional Australian notion of a “fair go”. We aim to strike the balance between people being able to do what they want to do, while respecting the civil liberties of others at the same time.

In our experience, governments – supposedly for the people – lean towards making laws and rules designed more for the convenience of authorities rather than the people. These new laws are often framed and “spun” to appear reasonable, but in fact they reduce the liberties, rights and freedoms of the overwhelming majority of all Australians who are not criminals.

CLA is calling for a *Decade of Liberties Restoration*.

This is needed, we say, to counter the *Decade of Restrictions on Liberties* from 2001 to 2011. Over 10 years, more than 50 new federal laws and an equivalent number in states and territories have introduced excessive anti-terrorism and other laws, founded in fear, which are changing the way Australians live.

It is time the law-makers stopped legislating in fear, and passed laws enhancing freedoms instead.

The ‘*Freedom Has Flown: How Airport Scanners Take Away Your Civil Liberties*’ video was produced with help from Koozzoo donating its services to aid the civil liberties of Australians. Civil Liberties Australia thanks Koozzoo for their community spirit: <http://www.koozzoo.com/>