

BROOME INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Submission No: 797

E-MAILED

8.3.06  
Cl- Reith MacLeod  
Broome Airport Manager

8 March, 2006

Joint Statutory Committee on Public Accounts and Audit  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Committee,

**Re: Inquiry into Developments in Aviation Security – Broome Visit**

Please accept my apologies for not being able to appear here today in person to express my concerns regarding aviation security at the larger regional airports in Western Australia. I am sure that our airport manager, Mr Reith MacLeod and our security manager, Mr Craig Waters will be able to provide this committee with details of some of the issues that Broome International Airport has with the Office of Transport Security.

I would however like to take this opportunity to register our concerns over the lack of funding that has been made available to Australia's larger regional airports such as Broome International Airport by the Federal Government. Under the Australian Government \$48m "Securing our Regional Skies" programme, only the 146 smaller regional airports that were not previously categorized were providing with funding support. This funding was in addition to the \$35m grant programme announced by the Australian Government to assist the same new entrant airports for security infrastructure upgrades such as fencing, CCTV and access controls.

None of this funding has provided for the real needs of the 27 larger categorized regional airports which already had a Transport Security Programme in place. These airports handled 5.9m passenger movements in 2003/2004 representing 8.4% of Australia's domestic total. During the same period the new entrants catered for only 2.7% of the total movements with the bulk of the movements through the CTFR airports.

I first raised these concerns directly with the Prime Minister in a letter dated 30 September, 2005 and then again on the 22 December, 2005. The latter concern was raised following my attendance at a Terrorism Risk Assessment Workshop held in Perth.

The Government's response has been to largely ignore our calls and suggest that our needs have been addressed through the provision of funded education and awareness programmes, the Rapid Response Deployment Team (RRDT) exercise and some basic training programmes. It is our opinion that spending in these areas has little benefit for aviation security at the larger regional airports.

The inequity in funding has now resulted in an inequity in security levels between the regional airports. The Government justifies its position in that the larger regional airports can afford to pay for enhancements and that these costs will be passed on to its passengers. However, the current levels of passenger numbers cannot support the relatively high level of fixed cost associated with security infrastructure.

We have repeatedly suggested that unspent funds allocated under the \$35m RAFP programme should be allocated to these forgotten airports however, no announcement has yet been made despite the importance of these funds to help secure our larger regional airports.

In conclusion, we ask that the committee urgently request that the Federal Government allocate adequate funding to these 27 regional airports and redress the inequity of the funding programmes to date.

Yours faithfully



**KIM MAISEY**  
**CEO - BIA GROUP**