Dear Sir,

I operate an Australian registered aircraft in NZ and Australia. I wish to advise that there is a need to some keep balance in regard to aviation security.

While you will hear from many agencies and unions for the need for extra security, most of the issues they will raise can be addressed by members of the public being aware of the issues and the need for them to report to the police and security personal any suspicious circumstances.

It is my view it is unnecessary to have additional security arrangements at other than the international airports. But at all airports to have staff trained and members of the public aware of the need to report anything unusual. There of course is the need to screen persons who fit a profile and all baggage, but only at international airports.

Electronic surveillance is such these days that any potential threat can in most cases be monitored whilst it is being arranged, in this circumstances additional arrangements may be necessary when the threat becomes known. However these methods of intelligence gathering should not be disclosed as it often is today, as this in itself causes the very people you are trying to monitor to seek other means of communication.

Following September 11 there is a heightened awareness from members of the travelling public and any person attempting to gain control of an aircraft today is likely to be taken down by a number of passengers. Consideration could however be given to arming pilots as has been approved in the USA.

The current system of removing any pocket knives and sharp objects from person is flawed in my view. Allowing members of the public to carry pocket knives etc will only act in favour of security arrangements, as passengers who want to ensure the flight arrives at its destination safely will out number those who wish to take over a flight. The above statement does not mean that persons should be able to carry onboard fixed blade or visible knives.

I am sure you will hear from many agencies and unions who will want "high tech" and very costly systems to be put in place. This in my view is not necessary other than in exceptional circumstances, as you will find (as in most issues in life) simple basic safety precautions and pubic awareness are more effective than expensive technology.

Regards John Funnell