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24th July 2003

The Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE. Review of Aviation Security in Australia Inquiry

Newcastle Airport Limited (NAL) offers the following submission to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit *Review of Aviation Security in Australia*.

This submission addresses parts b), e), f) and g) of the terms of reference supplied with the original invitation for submissions.

OVERVIEW

NAL has introduced a new security procedure for outbound passengers using Newcastle Airport for domestic travel requirements.

Effective 8 July 2003, all outbound passengers are required to show photo identification together with their boarding pass at the time the passenger passes through the screening point.

EXPLANATION

At present it is possible for passengers to check in with the appropriate photo ID and then pass their boarding pass to another person who has not been authenticated as the traveller.

All international passengers undergo a further ID check at the point of boarding by producing a passport that provides staff with a confirmed face to face and name to name check.

The measures introduced by NAL is designed to add a further level of security over and above the mandated requirements, and offer additional comfort to passengers and aircraft operators.

IMPLEMENTATION

This system has been implemented on a trial basis for a period of three (3) months before review and inclusion in NAL's Operations Manual as a Standard Operating Procedure.

Airline, security and operations staff will be surveyed at approximately two (2) months into the trial to ascertain any problems with the system and comment on modifications that can be made before the review.

AFFECTED OPERATIONS

The additional security measures were designed to have minimal impact on airport staff and passenger flow, and as such the screening point was chosen as the ID check point.

This involved liaising with the security company and gaining their approval to direct screening staff to complete a simple ID check before passing into the sterile area. On average, this check takes 10 to 15 seconds if passengers are pre-warned of the requirement for ID.

Airline staff are asked to advise passengers that ID will be required at the screening point and announce a "Clear Security Call" over the terminal public address system 15 to 20 minutes before departure time to facilitate a smooth flow of passengers through the screening point.

EXEMPTIONS

It is envisaged that passengers that do not possess photo ID of some sort will be required to confirm their identity via the "100 Point System".

Accompanied children as passengers will be permitted into the sterile area under their guardian's ID check. Unaccompanied children will be permitted entry via airline staff as per normal airline operating procedures.

Persons accompanying disabled or impaired passengers will be permitted entry to assist those passengers until airline staff take responsibility for that passenger at the boarding gate.

The security screeners are responsible for alerting airline and operations staff of any anomalies with the ID process. Ultimately, airline staff are responsible for permitting a passenger to board an aircraft if ID checks are not satisfactory.

All entries to the sterile area will be in accordance with normal regulatory requirements.

CONCLUSION

NAL has devised this system to be simple, effective and easily implemented with the benefit of enhancing security at Newcastle Airport beyond that mandated by government regulations.

The system has only minor implications for airline staff and only a small increase in workload applies to security screeners. Passengers have been overwhelmingly supportive of the initiative.

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