



Committee welcomes Wheeler review, continues own inquiry

The Federal Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee (JCPAA) today welcomed the Government's announcement of measures in response to the Wheeler review of aviation security.

Committee Chair, Mr Bob Baldwin MP, said the Committee welcomes today's announcement of measures to improve airport security across Australia.

"The JCPAA's own current inquiry into aviation security has confirmed the need for a review of the arrangements for issuing and managing Airport Security Identification Cards; a need to improve information-sharing across airports; and the need for a single policing authority for all category one and major airports; and has also highlighted other issues examined in the Wheeler report," Mr Baldwin said.

"We are looking forward to continuing our inquiry into aviation security, which is drilling deeper into the issues surrounding terrorist threats, security, and criminal activity at airports, and looking in greater detail at security coordination and practices in airports across Australia," he said.

"We have ongoing security concerns about procedures at Australian airports, including in relation to baggage handling. Recent media reports of criminal activity have damaged the reputation of security systems in the aviation industry, and the Australian public needs to be reassured that these systems are protecting them and their property," he said.

"The Committee is interested in seeing various aspects of security operations at airports around Australia. We will also be hearing of any concerns that aviation industry participants have with the upgraded regulatory regime either in places where it is perceived to still have gaps or in cases where it may impose a too onerous burden on participants," he said.

Tomorrow the Committee continues gathering evidence with a public hearing in Perth. The hearing will be held in the Conference Room, Commonwealth Offices, Level 39, Exchange Plaza, 2 The Esplanade, commencing at 2:30pm. Witnesses include Westralia Airports Corporation (1:30 – 2:30 pm); and the West Australian Government (2:30 – 3:30 pm).

Terms of Reference for the JCPAA's aviation security inquiry are overleaf.

For media comment: please contact **Mr Bob Baldwin MP** on telephone **(02) 4983 1330** (electorate office) or on mobile **0419 694 620**.

For more information: contact the inquiry secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4615 or mobile 0411 209 456 or visit the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/index.htm>

Terms of reference for JCPAA aviation security inquiry

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit will inquire into and report on developments in aviation security since its June 2004 *Report 400: Review of Aviation Security in Australia*, with particular reference to:

- a) regulation of aviation security by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services, and the Department's response to aviation security incidents since June 2004;
- b) compliance with Commonwealth security requirements by airport operators at major and regional airports;
- c) compliance with Commonwealth security requirements by airlines;
- d) the impact of overseas security requirements on Australian aviation security;
- e) cost imposts of security upgrades, particularly for regional airports;
- f) privacy implications of greater security measures; and
- g) opportunities to enhance security measures presented by current and emerging technologies, including measures to combat identity fraud.