

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No.30

Senator Guy Barnett asked the following questions at the hearing on 26 May 2011:

Has an incident of seriousness in recent weeks at Launceston Airport come to the attention of the AFP? Have there been any calls for the AFP to be stationed at Launceston Airport as a result of this incident?

Can we obtain AFP protection at the airport. What should I do to follow up on behalf of my local community in that regard? What would your advice be?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

An incident occurred at the Launceston Airport on 24 April 2011 at 1:25 pm involving a number of people having a verbal altercation at the check-in area. Tasmania Police responded and two people were arrested for assault. This incident did not come to the attention of the AFP at the time of the incident, as it was within the jurisdiction of, and appropriately dealt with by the Tasmanian Police.

The Department of Infrastructure and Transport's Office of Transport Security is responsible for classifying Australian airports as security designated airports. Questions relating to the process of designating these airports should be directed to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

The AFP maintains four Regional Rapid Deployment Teams across Australia that are deployable to regional airports. Deployment of this resource is intelligence and risk based. During 2010/11 these teams deployed to Launceston airport 6 times and AFP members from Hobart Airport also conduct regular meetings, contact and liaison visits with stakeholders located at Launceston Airport.