

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2008
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Question: OTS 01

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Airside Access Inspection at Sydney Airport

Hansard Page: 23-24 (28/05/08)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Senator HEFFERNAN—I suppose so. This may be a question for you. One of the things I am fascinated by at Sydney Airport is that you can actually still drive a truck onto the airport if you have a pass without any photographic finger printed evidence that you are the owner of the pass that opens the gate; can you still do that?

Mr Tongue—Again, that is more an Office of Transport Security question, but I am happy to handle it now if you would like.

Senator HEFFERNAN—Yes, have a crack at it.

Mr Tongue—In part as a result of the Wheeler review, we are continuing to institute what we call airside inspection arrangements. Those involve a range of measures to better manage the movement of people, vehicles and goods into the secure zones of the major airports. That includes vehicle inspection and a range of other processes to address the vulnerability that you are highlighting.

Senator HEFFERNAN—So is the answer that you could still do that?

Mr Tongue—Senator, I would have to check where we are up to at Sydney Airport. I am happy to come back to you. I will find that out. I have got staff watching and I will ask them to check where we are up to at Sydney Airport in terms of the implementation.

Senator HEFFERNAN—The general security pass, which is swiped, opens the gates. All you have to do is have the pass and it opens the gates.

Mr Tongue—At major access points there is also a faced pass check.

Senator HEFFERNAN—But there are places where you do not get the face.

Mr Tongue—Senator, I think we have tightened that one up, but I will ask for some advice.

Answer:

Sydney Airport's airside access arrangements, particularly in relation to Aviation Security Identification Cards (ASICs), are issued and comply with the *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*, the *Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005* (the Regulations) and their ASIC Issuing Body Program.

In addition to the access arrangements to the airside area generally, Sydney Airport has implemented, and requires its tenants to also implement, additional security measures at specified access/entry points for people entering the airside security zone that exceed the requirements of the Regulations. This has included Sydney Airport reducing the number of access points into the airside area and permitting entry to the airside security zone only to those persons whom have been subject to a face to identification (e.g. ASIC) check, an inspection of a person's possessions and a verification of a vehicle's authority to enter.

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Question: OTS 02

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Indonesian Port Security workshops

Hansard Page: 37 (28/5/08)

Senator Scullion asked:

Senator SCULLION—Thank you. It does seem that there will be some considerable savings. Is it just Indonesia that will be providing the other aspects of that conference, or will there be people from other nations providing input?

Mr Retter – My understanding is that the conference will be for Indonesian officials, with the instruction coming from my staff that it is not involving other agencies at this stage. I will need to check on that information for you.

Answer:

Attendance at the workshops will include Australian and Indonesian officials. No other nations will be involved in the workshops.

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Question: OTS 03

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: CCTV Trial

Hansard Page: 41 (28/05/08)

Senator McGauran asked:

Senator McGAURAN—I am just reading from the website that the department so often refers us to. The budget allocation of \$3.3 million.

Mr Retter—My memory, Senator, is that the allocation of funding for the CCTV trial you spoke of at the regional airports was in financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 and that, as Mr Tongue has alluded to, that trial has ended. The broader issues of how CCTV is carried forward in the aviation environment is now sitting with the Australian Customs Service.

Senator McGAURAN—There is no budget allocation?

Mr Retter—We will have to check for you, but my understanding is that out of the range of funding that was provided in the aviation security environment, the specific amounts that you speak about were for earlier financial years.

Answer:

The budget allocation for the regional airport 24 hour CCTV trial was in financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06. This trial concluded on 30 June 2007.

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Question: OTS 04

Division/Agency: Office of Transport Security

Topic: Accuracy of Website Information

Hansard Page: 41 (28/05/08)

Senator McGauran asked:

Senator McGAURAN—Ms Page, you have freely recommended or answered questions by referring to your website. Your website is out of date. You are running the old governments budgets.

Ms Page—We will check that, Senator.

Answer:

Senator McGauran's comments have been noted.