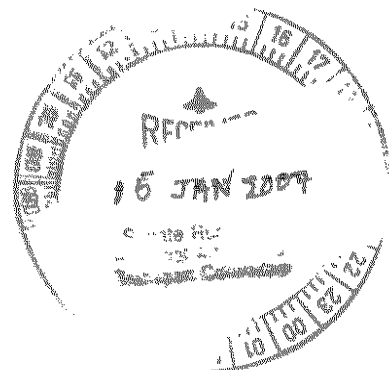




A U S T R A L I A N  
R E T A I L E R S  
A S S O C I A T I O N

10 January 2007

The Secretary  
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms Radcliffe

We thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission in relation to the Airport Amendment Bill 2006.

The ARA would like to be kept informed of any future developments which effect the retail industry and would welcome any invitations for future participation.

Should you wish to discuss this submission please contact either myself or the contacts listed in the submission.

Yours sincerely

**Neil Bassett**  
Policy Officer



AUSTRALIAN  
RETAILERS  
ASSOCIATION

## Australian Retailers Association

# Airport Development in Australia

10 January 2007

P0702 NAT Airport Amendment Bill 2006

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## **1 Scope of the Submission**

- 1.1. This submission is provided by the Australian Retailers Association on behalf of its retail members.
- 1.2. This submission will provide feedback on the Airports Ammendments Bill and will propose future directions for airport development in Australia.

## **2 About the ARA**

### **2.1 Background**

- The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) is an organization of employers registered under the Workplace Relations Act 1996 (cth).
- The ARA was formed as a result of the almagamation of two organisations of employers, The Retail Traders Association of NSW; and The Retail Traders Association of Victoria.
- In 2006 the ARA was restructured to form the Australian Retailers Association to better provide a consistent and improved National service to retailers.
- The ARA is governed by a transitional Council with ten members, five from NSW and five from Victoria. A new ARA Council will be elected in 2007.
- The ARA predominantly consists of small retail members, with some 90% of the ARA membership consisting of employers with less than 20 employees. The ARA is therefore also an advocate for small retail businesses as well as the retail industry generally.
- The ARA provides comprehensive services to its members in employment related areas providing industry level industrial relations advocacy, representation in award matters, assistance in employment policy development, representation in unfair dismissal and equal opportunity matters, assistance in agreement making, as well as providing occupational health and safety, WorkCover and privacy advice to members.
- The ARA and affiliates have a membership in excess of 12,000 members.

### **2.2 The Australian Retail Industry**

- ARA members comprise a diversity of sizes and types of retailers reflecting the profile of the retail industry, ranging from the large household name retailers to one-person operators throughout the nation.
- The retail industry is the largest employer in Australia, providing 15% of all jobs. Retail jobs are expected to grow by 30 000 jobs each year.
- Australian retailers operate with lower profit margins than any other industry and contributes to around 5.2 percent of Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

### 2.3 ARA's Mission

To be the premier national representative of the retail industry by having a broad membership and affiliations across all states and categories; and effectively and positively dealing with government, media and regulators. To be a highly effective peak advocate for retailers through leadership in solutions, research, advocacy and member involvement. To promote and improve the viability, productivity and visibility of retail industry; and proactively help upgrade the quality of retailers in Australia which contributes to a sustainable and profitable retail industry. To endorse and facilitate quality careers in the retail industry through research, promotion and training.

## 3 **Airport Development**

### 3.1 Increasing Tourist Spending

The Australian Retailers Association supports non-aeronautical developments at leased airports, including retail-shopping facilities and commercial complexes. Such developments should however be consistent with all airport leases and master plans. Such non-aeronautical developments would allow the future growth capacity of international tourists to be maximized and enhanced which as a result benefits the airport retail industry and the Australian economy.

By supporting the growth of Australian airports the ARA recognises the increased opportunities that existing and new retailers covered under the *Airports Act 1996* could experience through an increase in tourist spending and promotion of the Australian retail industry.

### 3.2 Job Creation

The potential rise in consumer spending in Australian airports will positively help influence job creation, competition and the promotion of the retail industry. Therefore, the ARA supports any expansion of existing facilities or the creation of new developments which helps deliver greater retail opportunities in Australia.

Although, the ARA identifies that any new non-aeronautical development especially retail complexes and facilities must incorporate sufficient access facilities including affordable car parking to allow employees and customers adequate space to benefit and support any new retail outlets. Sufficient and affordable parking and transport facilities will promote any new airport retail development and ease congestion, illegal parking and maintain approved airport environmental master plans.

### 3.3 Development Approval Efficiency

The ARA also believes that by refining the planning and development approval regimes of airport master plans and major developments will be beneficial for the public sector. By increasing access for public comment and allowing improved Ministerial assessment provisions for all airport master plans will further improve public transparency in major developments. This will as a result help possible new airport retail developments to be judged and supported by public consultation.

#### **4 ARA Contacts**

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