

1. The Australian Airports Association supports the passage of the amendment to the Civil Aviation Act 1998 to provide for the introduction of a mandatory drug and alcohol testing regime in the Australian aviation industry.

2. a) The Australian Airports Association does not support the exemption of 'certain' dignitaries from aviation security screening.

b) The Australian Airports Association supports, in general terms, the thrust of amendments to the Aviation Transport Security Act 2004. However, we are concerned at the lack of definition in terms of airport operational issues, with regard to 'Division 3A - Eligible Customs Officers'. Parts 89A through to 89H confer significant powers and responsibilities on 'eligible customs officers'.

Accordingly, we would expect the 'Committee' to seek from the Australian Customs Service, information and guidelines as to how they will operationally exercise such responsibilities and attendant legislative powers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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