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Dear Ms Walker

## **INQUIRY INTO THE PROTECTION OF CROWDED PLACES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee's *Inquiry into the Protection of Crowded Places in Western Australia from Terrorist Acts*.

Perth Airport is Australia's fourth largest airport with close to 14 million passenger movements per year or around 40,000 passenger movements per day. In addition, thousands of people visit Perth Airport terminals each day to meet and greet passengers, and 18,000 staff are employed to work on the Perth Airport estate. On an average day, 360 aircraft movements take place equating to over 130,000 aircraft movements per annum.

As one of the State's most critical pieces of infrastructure operating in an industry which has historically experienced elevated threat levels, the safety and security of staff, visitors and passengers is our highest priority.

As such, Perth Airport welcomes the Committee's Inquiry and provides the following information to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

### **Implementation of Mitigation and Protective Security Measures**

Perth Airport Pty Ltd is designated as a Security Controlled Airport under Section 28 of the Aviation Transport Security Act (2004), which requires airport authorities to have a Transport Security Program (TSP) approved by the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs.

The TSP details the security measures and procedures to be established and maintained at Perth Airport to protect and safeguard civil aviation against unlawful acts of interference and sabotage. The TSP includes measures and procedures to detect, deter and respond to unlawful acts of interference against aviation, including unlawful acts which are commonly referred to as 'terrorist acts'.

Consistent with the requirements of the Aviation Transport Security Regulations (2005), the Australian Federal Police (AFP) are located at the airport and provide a Counter Terrorist First Response (CTFR) service. In summary, the role of the AFP is to provide response to criminal and security incidents and to take initial control in emergencies. Establishment of the AFP's CTFR function at the airport also provides a deterrence to the conduct of terrorist acts.

## Relationships Between State Government Departments and Owners and Operators of Crowded Places

Consistent with the requirements of the Commonwealth Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (1998) Parts 139-205, 210, and 215, Perth Airport has developed an Aerodrome Emergency Plan (AEP).

The Perth Airport AEP is informed by the Western Australia State Emergency Management arrangements as described in the Emergency Management Act (2005) and Emergency Management Regulations (2005).

The AEP is intended to integrate with the National Emergency Management Plans of Emergency Management Australia, and the State Emergency Management Plan of the West Australian Office of Emergency Management. The state plans are prepared by the relevant Hazard Management agencies as defined in the Emergency Management Regulations (2005) and the Emergency Management Act (2005).

The AEP establishes an Aerodrome Emergency Committee (AEC) which has responsibility for the development, oversight and review of the AEP as described in Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 139.210 (1).

The purpose of the AEC is to establish, review and exercise the AEP as required by Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (1998).

The AEC has within its terms of reference, the following objectives:

- Review the AEP annually.
- Identify emergency resources available on and off the airport and prepare plans for the allocation and coordination of the use of these resources in emergencies.
- Review and implement appropriate systems for use in the control and coordination of emergency operations on Perth Airport.
- Arrange the conduct of exercises to periodically test aspects of the AEP.
- Maintain communication networks within and between airport functional areas and stakeholders.
- Ensure the AEP management and exercising is current and adequate to meet regulatory requirements.
- Identify the need for airport functional area subcommittees and appoint coordinators and determine terms of reference for these subcommittees.

The AEC is chaired by Perth Airport and is currently open to organisations that operate at Perth Airport or are involved in the aviation industry or will have a combat or support role at Perth Airport in an emergency. This includes the following state agencies:

Agency	Role
Western Australian Police	Assume control of aircraft and security related emergency incidents and provides overall coordination of all agencies involved in a response to an emergency at Perth Airport as appropriate.
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Firefighting, rescue of trapped persons, hazardous materials (HAZMAT) response including HAZMAT Emergency Advisory Team
St John Ambulance	Provides pre-hospital, triage, treatment and transport of the injured to hospitals.
WA Health	Coordinate the health response in an emergency, including



Agency	Role
	working with St John Ambulance Western Australia Ltd. in the activation of ABPLAN and State Health Emergency Response Plan and support plans as required. Provide advice to the relevant Hazard Management Agency (HMA) on all medical and health aspects in relation to the emergency situation.
Department of Communities	Coordinate welfare services for passengers at the Passenger and Reception Centre and for waiting relatives and friends at the Relative Reception Centre in support of the affected airline.

Perth Airport's arrangements for response to a terrorist act are regularly exercised consistent with the requirements of the TSP and the AEP. These exercises include all relevant state agencies. It is important to note that the emergency management arrangements in place at Perth Airport assume that whilst the AFP are likely to be the first responders in the event of a terrorist incident at Perth Airport, the Western Australian Police will assume the role of the Hazard Management Agency upon arrival and handover from the AFP.

For these reasons, state departments and agencies have long been active members of both the Perth Airport Security Committee (ASC) and the AEC. State agencies also assist in developing the Perth Airport exercise program and as such, have been actively involved in joint agency exercises (both desktop and field) for scenarios involving terrorist acts.

Perth Airport is a member of the Western Australian Police Protective Security Unit's Crowded Places Forum which meets on a regular basis to discuss various aspects of security risk mitigation for crowded places.

### Security Licensing, Registration, and Assurance Processes in Western Australia

Security licensing processes in Western Australia have little impact on the provision of security services at Perth Airport. The airport contracts security services for aviation related functions in accordance with the Commonwealth Aviation Transport Security Act (2004) and Aviation Transport Security Regulations (2005), noting however that the Commonwealth regulations require airport security guards to be licensed as a security guard in the state in which the airport is located, if required by that state's legislation.

I hope this submission is of assistance to the Committee and wish the Committee well in its deliberations.

For further information on this submission please contact our Chief Corporate Services Officer, Ms Deb Blaskett on

Yours sincerely

Kevin Brown  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER