



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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If you can fly into Canberra without security, what hope for upgrading smaller regional airports?

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has again raised the issue of the need for upgrading security at regional airports with the revelation that Canberra airport has regular scheduled flights arriving without being screened for security.

“The absurdity of the airport security situation has been highlighted once again with Canberra being used as an example of a double standard.

Canberra Airport is fully security screened for outgoing passengers irrespective of whether jet aircraft or smaller regional aircraft are being boarded.

However, incoming flights from regional centres are not screened at all,” Mr Windsor said.

In an article in the Canberra Times on Tuesday 3rd June, it was stated “Five times each week day, small regional airlines bring passengers on scheduled flights into the national capital from airports where there are no metal detectors, nor is carry-on baggage screened for weapons or explosives”

“The potential exists for this inadequate screening – as the events of September 11, 2001 revealed in the United States – to place notable and potential terrorist targets like the national capital at risk.”

“Why have security anywhere?

Where is the evidence that suggests that there is a threat in Sydney or Coffs Harbour and no threat at all in Tamworth or Wagga Wagga?” Mr Windsor asks.

Mr Windsor today also had a meeting with a representative of the Minister for Transport and Regional Services and Departmental staff to follow up on the offer of the Prime Minister in his response to a question from Mr Windsor on Monday wherein the Prime Minister said, “I am informed by the Deputy Prime Minister that Tamworth does have a security plan and that it is based on a risk assessment. I am quite sure that, if the honourable member wants some more information about that, it will be provided by the Deputy Prime Minister.”

“As a result of the meeting with the Minister’s representative and the Departmental staff, I am looking to receiving more information about the Tamworth Airport Security Plan,” Mr Windsor said.

Further information from Tony Windsor - Mob 0427 66 8868 or 02 6761 3080