

The impact of a Coalition or ALP victory on mass transport, mass gathering and precinct security

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ALP statements

- Department of Homeland Security
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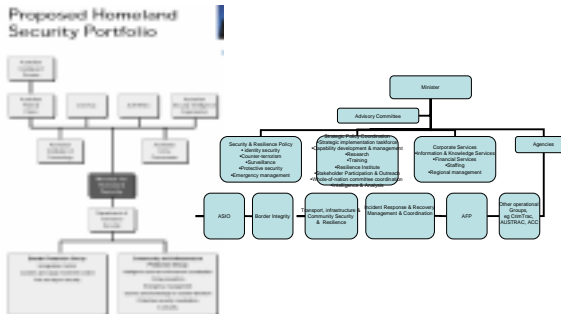
Dept of Homeland Security

Labor has identified that the key responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security will include:

- Border Security
- Maritime security
- Aviation security
- Mass urban transport security
- Domestic Intelligence and surveillance
- Federal Policing
- Response to non-state terrorism
- Critical Infrastructure protection
- Response to and recovery from incidents
- Protecting against terrorist attacks;
- Fighting crime;
- Collection and dissemination of intelligence

- The Coastguard – including the Border Protection Command
- Office of Transport Security
- Customs
- Australian Federal Police and Protective Services (AFPPS)
- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO)
- AUSTRAC
- CRIMTRAC
- AUSCHECK
- Australian Crime Commission (ACC)
- The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)
- The Criminology Research Council (CRC)
- Emergency Management Australia (EMA)
- Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC)

Potential structures



Labor positions - transport

Mass Urban Transport Security

The horrific terrorist attacks on Madrid's rail system in 2004 and the attack on London's bus and rail network in 2005 demand urgent bus and rail security upgrades in Australia. Labor will work with industry, State, Territory and local government to ensure acceptable national standards for security are in place on all major urban transport systems.

Labor will take the initiative in ensuring:

- the design of carriages, buses, ferries, railway stations and terminals minimises the opportunity for explosive devices to be left and also reduces the lethal effect of any explosion which may occur;
- a substantial increase in the availability of sniffer dogs to detect explosives and their regular use on major urban transport systems;
- the creation of highly mobile flying squads of police, specially trained to operate in an urban transport environment; and
- improved security and surveillance at depots and rail yards where vehicles, ferries and passenger carriages are held.

Inspector of Transport Security

The Inspector of Transport Security has an important role inspecting and verifying that security measures meet acceptable national standards to protect the travelling public. Under Labor, the role of the Inspector of Transport Security will be enhanced and become a full-time position to audit transport security measures and ensure suitable standards apply.

Labor positions – mass gatherings

Liberal position - transport

Unlike the aviation and maritime industries, where security regulation is the primary responsibility of the Australian Government, surface transport security, including rail, light rail, buses, and passenger ferries, is the responsibility of the state or territory in which the service is located.

The Australian Government's role is to work with state and territory governments to develop a consistent and coordinated approach to surface transport security. This role, and the roles of the states and territories, is set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement on Surface Transport Security (IGA), which was finalised in 2005.

Initiatives

1. National Code of Practice for closed circuit television (CCTV) systems for counter-terrorism purposes in the mass passenger transport sector.
2. Assessment of surface transport security in Australia - finalised the report in November 2006. The two main areas for further work in the transport area are in relation to providing
 - security training to staff of transport operators and
 - security planning.

Liberal position – mass gatherings

The fundamental strategies behind protecting our cities, our buildings and our businesses are

- risk management
- business continuity planning.

The Government's view is that the business community is in the best position to assess risk and to determine what actions it needs to take to protect itself, and not unnecessary regulation.

Initiatives

- Mass Gatherings Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Group
- Security industry standards
- Project Griffin

Workshop questions

1. Are there any other initiatives that have been announced?

Workshop questions

2. What initiatives might be proposed to improve mass transport, mass gatherings and precinct security?

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Workshop questions

3. How can the proposed and possible initiatives be achieved?