

# Transport Security (Counter-Terrorism) Act 2008

The *Transport Security (Counter-Terrorism) Act 2008* helps protect surface transport operators and the community from the threat of terrorism.

## Background

Terrorist attacks and plots against public transport systems in Madrid (2004), London (2005), Mumbai (2006 and 2008), Washington State (2008), Volgograd (2013) Kunming (2014), London (2015) and Brussels (2016) have highlighted the intent and capacity of terrorists to attack surface transport systems. These systems include trains, buses, ferries and their terminals and interchanges.

To help address the risk of terrorism in Australia, the Council of Australian Governments signed an Intergovernmental Agreement on Surface Transport Security (the Agreement) on 3 June 2005. The Agreement sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Australian, State and Australian Capital Territory Governments in protecting the community and the surface transport system from the threat of terrorist activities.

To implement the objectives of the Agreement, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (the department) introduced the *Transport Security (Counter-Terrorism) Act 2008* (the Act). The Act implements a system for identifying surface transport operations at an elevated risk of terrorist attack and ensures they conduct risk assessments, develop security plans and implement and review security measures.

## What is involved?

The Act provides for the planning and protection of security-identified surface transport operations (SISTOs) and their users against significant adverse impacts associated with terrorist acts. The Act requires that:

- The Chief Executive of the department identify selected operations at an elevated risk of terrorism and declare them as SISTOs
- SISTOs undertake security risk assessments focused on counter-terrorism
- SISTOs prepare and submit a risk management plan
- SISTOs supply an annual certification, including details of security incidents, exercises, audits and reviews.

The Act also allows for SISTOs to be penalised for non-compliance.

## Who is involved?

A SISTO is a surface transport operation that has been assessed against the Queensland Surface Transport Terrorism Risk Methodology. A SISTO is determined to be at an elevated risk of terrorism when compared with other operators in the sector. SISTOs are high occupancy systems or operations that meet certain risk criteria, such as the nature of the operation, the location of the service, and the number of passengers being transported at peak periods.

Under the Act, a SISTO is required to manage the risk of terrorism. The Department works closely with SISTOs to deliver security risk management services including:

- assisting in the development of risk management plans;
- providing direction on exercises and audit procedures; and
- making available risk management tools and guidance.

The department also provides security guidance and support services to non-regulated surface transport operations across Queensland.

## For more information:

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