



# ALERT: Airport screening measures keeping Australians safe

Australia has a strong and comprehensive aviation security system, and security screening measures are there to keep travellers safe and secure. Aviation is an enduring and attractive target for those seeking to do us harm.

## The Australian Security Environment

We know that aviation remains an attractive target for terrorism. A successful attack on civilian aviation targets would inflict widespread economic and social damage. In 2017, authorities disrupted a terrorist plot targeting an aircraft departing Sydney, and there are other recent examples of terrorist attacks on aviation internationally.

Australia's general terrorism threat level is **PROBABLE**<sup>i</sup>. Credible intelligence indicates individuals or groups have the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia. The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) assesses that civilian aviation will remain a high-value terrorist target for the foreseeable future.

## Security Screening Technology

The Australian Government is requiring airports to implement enhanced security screening technologies for the security of passengers. This includes body scanners and advanced X-ray technology for the screening of baggage. These technologies represent the most advanced means of detecting explosives, weapons and prohibited items carried in bags or on the person.

Body scanners are designed to detect all items worn or carried on a person, not just metallic items. Travellers need to remove all items from their pockets before screening. Failure to do so may result in alarms, which will require further screening to be undertaken.

All body scanners used for aviation security screening in Australia must have features to protect passenger privacy. No image of scanned passengers is produced. Body scanners do not show an image of the person, but a generic body image (avatar) which highlights areas for secondary screening, such as an object in a pocket. Body scanners do not collect or store any personal information.

The Department of Home Affairs sets the broad requirements and outcomes for aviation security, which includes setting the requirements for passenger screening. The delivery of aviation security services is the direct responsibility of airports and their contractors. The Department expects that all travellers are treated with respect and dignity during the screening process.

You may notice small differences in screening processes at different airports. Individual airports and screening providers may have their own procedures in place to conduct passenger screening in a way that achieves the required level of security.

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## Contact Us

For more information on security screening, please visit the Cyber and Infrastructure Security (CISC) website at [www.cisc.gov.au](http://www.cisc.gov.au). The CISC can be contacted via the CISC [Contact Us](#) page or the TravelSECURE [Contact Us](#) page.

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<sup>i</sup> Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO). *National Threat Level*, dated 08 December 2021. URL: [Current National Terrorism Threat Level \(nationalsecurity.gov.au\)](https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au).