NATIONAL SECURITY - THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT

A STRONGER ECONOMY
A STRONGER AUSTRALIA

THE HOWARD GOVERNMENT
ELECTION 2004 POLICY

NATIONAL SECURITY - THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT
# NATIONAL SECURITY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1

### PART 1 A COORDINATED RESPONSE

- (i) Working with the States and Territories
- (ii) The Role of Local Government
- (iii) National Counter Terrorism Exercises
- (iv) Community Engagement

### PART 2 WORKING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

- (i) Our Alliance Partnerships
- (ii) Regional Cooperation
- (iii) Winning the Battle of Ideas

### PART 3 PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION

- (i) Legislative Framework
- (ii) Intelligence
- (iii) Law Enforcement
- (iv) Border Security
- (v) Critical Infrastructure
- (vi) Transport Security
- (vii) Science and Technology
- (viii) Hazardous Materials

### PART 4 RESPONDING TO A TERRORIST INCIDENT

- (i) Australian Defence Force
- (ii) Law Enforcement Agencies
- (iii) Emergency Services

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GOVERNMENT’S ACHIEVEMENTS

43

### LABOR’S ALTERNATIVE

46

### COSTINGS SUMMARY

55
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

‘National security and the defence of Australia is the first responsibility of government. The shadow cast by the new security threats of the twenty-first century will not lift any time soon. Australia must be prepared to use all means in our power to pursue our interests and defend our values against these threats.’ Prime Minister John Howard, ‘Getting the Big Things Right’, 8 July 2004.

The events of 11 September 2001 and 12 October 2002 have fundamentally changed the security environment in which Australians live. This was tragically underlined by the bombing outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on 9 September 2004.

Australia now faces an enemy which views the innocent as legitimate targets in their quest to extend the reach of their form of militant Islamic ideology.

The enemy is elusive, operating in the shadows where it does not respect the borders of nation states or the laws of war.

This enemy is Al Qaida and its associated entities, principally Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). Their aim is two-fold: to replace secular, or in some cases pro-western, Islamic states with Taliban style regimes, and to undermine the strength and unity of the West itself.

Responsible for the Bali bombing and linked to the recent Embassy bombing in Jakarta, JI is the principal threat to Australian interests in Southeast Asia.

We recognise this is a struggle on a global scale that requires the shared commitment of the international community. To that end, we will work with our allies and neighbours to meet this challenge.

Committed to protecting Australians and Australian interests from the threat of terrorism, the Coalition Government will continue to stand strong.

We will not weaken, nor concede ground to those who challenge our way of life and the values of freedom and democracy for which we stand.

The Government has put in place a coordinated national strategy to protect the community from terrorism.
As outlined in the recent Government document “Protecting Australia Against Terrorism” this strategy has three key elements:

- **Preparedness**: the provision of credible and timely intelligence as the most effective means of detecting and disrupting terrorist activity.
- **Prevention**: comprehensive arrangements to protect our people, assets and infrastructure from terrorism.
- **Response**: an effective capability to limit the impact of terrorist activity should it occur.

The Government cannot guarantee that a terrorist attack will not occur in Australia, but it can guarantee that it is doing everything within its power both domestically and internationally to counter the terrorist threat.

Since 2001 the Government has committed over $3.2 billion in additional funding to strengthen our security and law enforcement agencies.

With these resources available, the Government has put in place the following measures since September 2001 to protect Australia from terrorism:

- **More resources for Australia's intelligence agencies.** They are now funded at an unprecedented level, receiving over $870 million since 2001. The budget of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) has more than doubled since September 2001 with its number of personnel employed now higher than at any previous time. This has bolstered Australia’s capability to collect, analyse and disseminate intelligence information in a timely and effective manner.

- **More resources for Australia's law enforcement authorities.** Since the Coalition came to Government, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) have had their budget increased by 270 per cent enabling the AFP to strengthen their counter-terrorism capability. This resourcing has allowed the AFP to extend its work in the region and to strengthen its cooperation with State and Territory police. The AFP’s off-shore counter terrorism capability now includes rapid deployment teams as well as teams already co-located in the region.
• **A stronger legislative framework for terrorist related offences.** Consistent with our democratic processes, our law enforcement and intelligence agencies now have greater powers to detain and question those suspected to be involved in terrorist activities. Laws have been tightened to prevent suspects being granted bail when they represent an ongoing threat to the community. Convicted terrorists now face stiffer penalties than ever before.

• **Enhanced national coordination arrangements.** The Coalition Government has established a national counter terrorism committee that brings Federal, State and Territory governments together to share information and implement effective counter terrorist strategies. The responsibilities of each level of Government are set out under a National Counter Terrorism Plan launched in June 2003.

• **The Government is conducting frequent counter terrorism exercises.** The Government is ensuring that, in the event of a terrorist attack, all relevant agencies and jurisdictions are well rehearsed to respond in a most effective and timely way.

• **Increased international and regional coordination in the fight against terrorism.** The Government has concluded bilateral agreements on counter terrorism cooperation with nine of its neighbours. Together with our traditional alliance relationships with the United States and United Kingdom, Australia has put in place a strong international network with which to build practical cooperation and information sharing. The Government has funded a number of counter-terrorism capacity building projects in the region, which is enabling our regional partners to disrupt the terrorist networks at their source. The Government has also co-hosted with Indonesia a Ministerial meeting on Counter Terrorism, hosted the first Regional Special Forces Counter Terrorism conference and is working with our partners in the Five Power Defence Arrangement on maritime interdiction exercises in the Malacca Straits.

• **Better information campaigns to ensure that the public is engaged and alert to the terrorist threat.** The establishment in December 2002 of a national security hotline, which has received over 35,000 calls, is a means by which the public can provide information to authorities that may assist them disrupt potential terrorist activity.
• **Strengthened arrangements to protect Australia’s critical infrastructure.** The Government has moved to secure sites and systems within key sectors of the economy: including energy, banking, information technology, transport, food and water supplies. The Federal Government is closely working with its State and Territory counterparts as well as with business to assess the threats and mitigate the risks to critical infrastructure.

• **Strengthened border protection arrangements.** A fundamental issue of national sovereignty is the integrity of a country’s borders. Consolidating Australia’s reputation for world’s best practice, the Government has implemented a range of practical measures that allow the Immigration, Customs and Quarantine authorities to better monitor the movement of people and cargo to and from Australia.

• **Improved transport security arrangements.** Al Qaida has demonstrated its willingness and capacity to target the aviation, maritime and land transport sectors. To counter this threat, the Government has introduced a range of new measures to safeguard the Australian public. Air marshals, increased passenger and baggage screening, and government mandated security plans for regional and commercial airports and shipping and port authorities have all contributed to Australia having in place effective and comprehensive transport security arrangements.

• **Better use of science and technology in the fight against terrorism.** The Government has established a special Science, Engineering and Technology Unit for counter terrorism within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet which has the specific task of coordinating research and development relating to the fight against terrorism. These new technologies are particularly important in developing counter measures to respond to the threat of chemical, biological and, possibly, nuclear attack.

• **Enhanced response capabilities in the event of a terrorist attack.** The Australian Defence Force has created new teams of personnel dedicated to responding to domestic security threats. These units can respond to a wide range of incidents, including those of a chemical, biological and radiological nature. The Government has also provided funding for a national medicines stockpile as well as putting in place improved coordination arrangements with the States and Territories should a major terrorist incident occur.
With the introduction of these measures the Government believes it now has in place an effective national strategic framework for protecting Australia against terrorism.

By engaging with State and Territory governments, the business community and the general public, the Government has shown the decisive leadership necessary to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to national security.

But the Government is not complacent. For we face a challenge that will remain with us for some time yet.

The terrorist threat will continue to evolve as terrorists adopt new methods to counter our efforts to stop them.

That is why the Coalition Government is always reviewing, updating and improving its counter terrorism arrangements.

That is why a re-elected Coalition Government will further strengthen Australia’s counter terrorism capability.

**Local Government and Emergency Services**

- A re-elected Coalition Government will establish a new $33 million Local Government Security Partnership Programme. The programme will fund a strategic approach to enhancing emergency risk management at the local level. The key components are: developing a national strategic plan, establishing a local grants programme to fund practical security measures and security awareness training and creating a dedicated Office of Local Government Emergency Management within Emergency Management Australia (EMA).

- A re-elected Coalition Government will also establish a $16 million National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund to boost the recruitment and skills base of volunteer organizations at the frontline of emergency management.

- A re-elected Coalition Government will ensure that capital city Mayors are briefed by our intelligence agencies on security issues relevant to them.

**Counter-Terrorism Exercises**

- A re-elected Coalition Government will hold additional National Counter Terrorism exercises. Involving cooperation between Territory, State and Federal authorities, these multi-jurisdictional exercises will cover at least six major counter terrorist scenarios including but not limited to: an airline
hijacking, a bio-attack, an attack on the food chain, an attack on a ferry, an attack on an offshore oil rig and an attack on the national electricity grid.

**International Cooperation and Law Enforcement**

- A re-elected Coalition Government will undertake a major upgrade of the Australian Institute of Policing at Manly, NSW. This Institute will become a key training facility where senior police officers from neighbouring countries will be brought together with senior figures from our Federal, State and Territory police forces.

- A re-elected Coalition Government will commit $76.4 million to further strengthen the AFP’s regional counter terrorism capability. This will include: the establishment of two new counter terrorism Regional Engagement teams to be co-located in the region; the establishment of two counter terrorism criminal intelligence teams and two counter terrorism surveillance teams to operate both within Australia and in the region. Each of these AFP teams will work closely with counterpart agencies in the region to disrupt the terrorist networks.

- As part of this package, a re-elected Coalition Government will contribute $9 million to counter terrorism capacity building projects in the region. These include support for the establishment of full time Bomb Data Centres in Jakarta, Singapore and Malaysia and short term postings for selected Australian Bomb Data Centre members to Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

**Legislative Framework**

- A re-elected Coalition Government will sign and implement the twelfth and final United Nations Counter-Terrorism instruments, the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives.

**Intelligence**

The greater our intelligence effort and capacity to work jointly with our neighbours on counter terrorism intelligence, the greater the security of Australia and Australia’s interests.

Building on successful co-operation and joint training to date, a re-elected Coalition Government is committed to a further major initiative to develop joint counter terrorism intelligence capabilities with our regional partners.
That is why a re-elected Coalition Government will commit further resources to implement a number of new measures that strengthen the Australian intelligence agencies’ counter terrorism capability as well as that of the region.

A re-elected Coalition Government will:

- Establish a Centre for Counter Terrorism Intelligence Co-operation and Joint Training for Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific.
- Enhance ASIO’s linguistic capability in Arabic and South East Asian languages.
- Enhance Australia’s Border Control Systems by strengthening ASIO’s capacity to undertake background security checks on persons seeking to lawfully enter Australia.

This new plan to strengthen ASIO’s counter terrorism capability on a platform of regional cooperation is a significant step forward in the war against terror.

A re-elected Coalition Government will also implement the recommendations of the Flood Inquiry which include:

- Expanding the budget of ONA from $13.1 million to $25 million. Staff levels at ONA will effectively double from 74 to 145.
- The establishment of a Foreign Intelligence Coordination Committee (FICC) under the Director General of ONA. The FICC will assist the Director General of ONA in coordinating and monitoring the performance of the AIC.
- Increasing funding for ASIS to build staff capacity with necessary language skills.

**Border Security**

A re-elected Coalition Government will ensure that our border protection agencies are best equipped to meet this challenge.

As part of a $39 million border protection package, a re-elected Coalition Government will:

- Provide Coastwatch with the funding to trial a small, long endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). This vehicle would identify, verify and validate target data derived from the new High Frequency Surface Wave Radar (HFSWR) system to be located in the Torres Strait. The simple nature
of the small UAVs means they are portable, readily deployable and require only limited infrastructure to support operations.

- Provide Customs with new technology capable of quickly and accurately detecting chemical substances and explosives in sea and air cargo, at a cost of $13.9 million over four years.

- Introduce state-of-the-art technology at our international mail centres, at a cost of $9.2 million over four years.

- Invest an additional $6.9 million in the Australian Customs Service detector dog breeding and training program, ensuring the training of a further 10 detector dog teams. It will also facilitate the development of a hazardous chemical detection capability, strengthening Customs counter terrorism capacity.

- Invest over $8.4 million over four years to establish Customs offices in both Beijing and Jakarta. These posts will be important in addressing counter terrorism and border security issues.

- At a cost of $85 million, purchase two additional Armidale Class Patrol Boats to provide dedicated surveillance and monitoring of the North West Shelf. These boats will provide an enhanced quick reaction capability to respond to potential threats, including terrorist attack, and will add to the Navy’s overall border protection capabilities.

**Critical Infrastructure**

- A re-elected Coalition Government will create a Business Liaison Unit within ASIO to strengthen coordination and information flows between business and the intelligence community. This will help ensure that the owner operators of critical infrastructure and other relevant members of the business community can access timely intelligence on matters affecting the security of assets and staff for which they are responsible.

- The Coalition Government has already allocated $50.2 million in the 2004-05 Budget to strengthen critical infrastructure protection. This includes funding to develop a geospatial critical infrastructure incident response capability for law enforcement and emergency services agencies and enhance services provided by the Australian Computer Emergency Response Team (AusCERT) for the owners and operators of critical infrastructure.
Transport Security

- A Coalition Government will seek to build on the successful Air Marshal program with Singapore and the United States by extending their operation to a range of new flight routes, including to Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Canada.

Science and Technology

- A Coalition Government will establish a special collaborative research and development programme between the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation to further their work on counter terrorism related projects.

- Projects will focus on chemical and biological protection, intelligence support tools, explosive detection, biometrics and counter measures for civilian aircraft from shoulder fired missiles (MANPADS).

Protecting Australia from terrorism is a day to day proposition. It involves vigilance on all fronts. Having established national security as its first priority, the Coalition Government has presided over a dramatic strengthening in Australia’s counter terrorism capability.

However, we are not complacent and acknowledge we need to keep updating and improving our arrangements.

These new measures will do just that. They will ensure that Australia will continue to implement best practice when it comes to national security.
PART 1  A COORDINATED RESPONSE

(i) Working with the States and Territories

In the event of a national terrorist situation, the Federal Government has overall policy and broad strategic responsibility.

Since September 11, 2001 the Coalition Government has strengthened coordination arrangements within the Federal system in the following ways:

- Strengthened the role of the National Security Committee of Cabinet. Comprising the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Treasurer, Attorney General and Ministers for Defence and Foreign Affairs, this committee now meets on a regular basis to decide on the major security issues of the day.

- Established a National Security Division within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. This Division assists in the coordination of counter terrorism activities across Government.

- Established an Australian Government Counter Terrorism Policy Committee which has representation from 17 Federal departments and agencies.

However, the effectiveness of the response is also dependent upon there being close coordination between all levels of Government – Federal, State and Territory and Local.

Since 11 September 2001 this coordination has been greatly enhanced by a new institutional framework governing information sharing and decision making on national security matters. The Coalition Government has:

- Created a National Counter Terrorism Committee, chaired by a senior official from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and with participation from Federal, State and Territory representatives.

- Created a National Counter Terrorism Plan which has been endorsed by all jurisdictions and sets out the division of responsibilities between them to prevent and manage acts of terrorism.
The Role of Local Government

Local Government has an important role to play in the counter-terrorism effort.

Responsible for some critical infrastructure and the provision of key services including road maintenance and the regulation of heavily populated public places like shopping centres, the resources of local government will be crucial in maintaining public services and public confidence in the event of a major incident.

Recognising this, the Coalition Government is already engaging Local Government at the highest level:

- The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet convenes six-monthly meetings with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to update the Association on counter terrorism issues.
- Local Governments throughout Australia are involved in national arrangements for critical infrastructure protection.
- Emergency management training for local government representatives is provided through Emergency Management Australia.
- The establishment of the $30 million Community Crime Prevention Programme has enabled local governments to apply for small grants for local security initiatives.

A re-elected Coalition Government will further strengthen the role of Local Government in the national counter terrorism effort.

- A re-elected Coalition Government will establish a new $33 million Local Government Security Partnership Programme. The programme will fund a strategic approach to enhancing emergency risk management at the local level.
- The key components are: developing a national strategic plan, establishing a local grants programme to fund practical security measures and security awareness training and creating a dedicated Office of Local Government Emergency Management within EMA. The grants programme will be used to support measures such as perimeter fencing, lighting and a closed circuit television capability.
- A re-elected Coalition Government will also ensure that capital city Mayors are briefed by federal intelligence agencies about threat levels and security issues relevant to them.
• A re-elected Coalition Government will also establish a $16 million National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund to boost the recruitment and skills base of volunteer organizations at the frontline of emergency management.

(iii) National Counter Terrorism Exercises

The Australian Government has established a comprehensive series of counter-terrorism exercises. Often multi-jurisdictional, these exercises are an important opportunity to test response capabilities in the event of a terrorist incident.

In March 2004 the Federal Government oversaw Mercury 04, the largest and most ambitious counter-terrorist exercise ever conducted in Australia. It involved more than 3000 personnel from Defence, AFP, ASIO and the police and emergency services of the four participating jurisdictions – Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

The exercise included a telephone hook-up between the Prime Minister and the State and Territory leaders from the participating jurisdictions.

A re-elected Coalition Government will continue to expand the counter-terrorism exercise program by funding exercises involving but not limited to 6 different terrorist attack scenarios:

• an attack on an electricity grid;
• the hijacking of an aircraft;
• an attack on a significant point in the food chain;
• an attack on a ferry in Sydney Harbour;
• a bio-terrorist attack; and
• an attack on an off-shore oil rig.

(iv) Community Engagement

The most effective strategy is prevention. The involvement of the community in the counter terrorism effort is critical to Australia's success in countering the terrorist threat.

It is important that the community is aware of the nature of the threat, so that they can:

• Report any suspicious activity to the appropriate authorities; and
• Be best prepared to respond to a terrorist incident should one occur.

The Government has sought to raise public awareness through a highly successful major electronic and print media campaign launched in December 2002 “Be Alert Not Alarmed”.

The Government’s campaign was viewed as a model for other countries, such as the United Kingdom, who have since announced similar initiatives.

In December 2002 the Government established a National Security Hotline. The Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is an important means by which the public provides information on national security matters. Since its inception, the Hotline has received over 35,000 calls, letters and emails, with around 15,000 of them providing information on suspicious activities.

With $6.2 million allocated in the 2004-05 Budget, a re-elected Coalition Government will continue to strengthen community involvement in the Counter Terrorism effort.

PART 2 WORKING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

With its aim of undermining secular and pro-Western Islamic regimes and weakening Western Governments, the terrorist threat is global in scope.

No country can claim immunity from terrorism – it threatens every nation and its citizens.

Australia will not defeat terrorism by acting alone. Only with the effective cooperation of our regional neighbours and the international community at large, will we meet this challenge.

To this end the Australian Government has developed effective partnerships with key allies and neighbours designed to:

• Share information about terrorist activities;
• Coordinate operational activities;
• Build political will and technical capacity in the region to fight terrorism; and
• Assist in winning the battle of ideas through development and educational support and building stronger links with spiritual and religious leaders in the region.
(i) **Our Alliance Partnerships**

Australia’s most important strategic partnership is with the United States. America’s commitment to fighting terrorism, in particular the material assistance it gives to countries in our region, is critical to preserving Australia’s security.

Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States share important intelligence that has strengthened Australia’s ability to counter the activities of terrorist groups including Al Qaida, Jemaah Islamiyah and Lashkar e-Tayyiba.

Under the Coalition Government Australia’s relationships with its key allies have never been stronger.

(ii) **Regional Cooperation**

The Coalition Government has placed a high priority on strengthening cooperation with our neighbours and, where required, offering assistance in capacity building in the fight against terrorism.

Australia is very active in this regard, with much of the work being coordinated by Australia’s Ambassador for Counter Terrorism, a position established by the Government in March 2003.

Some examples of regional counter terrorist activities we have been involved in, include:

- Australia has contributed $36.8 million to the establishment of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation. The centre will focus on multi-jurisdictional investigations and contribute to a strengthened counter-terrorism capability in the region;
- Australia has entered into counter-terrorism memorandums of understanding with nine countries in the region: Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Fiji, Cambodia, East Timor, India and Papua New Guinea. These agreements provide a framework for practical cooperation between Australian agencies and their regional counterparts;
- Australia is participating with its partners under the Five Power Defence Arrangement (Singapore, Malaysia, United Kingdom, New Zealand) to address unconventional security threats facing the region, including terrorism and maritime security in such areas as the Malacca Straits. Australia participated in multilateral joint exercises in August and September which involved a range of exercises including maritime interdiction;
• With APEC we are implementing an Advanced Passenger Information System to enhance security for air travelers and we are developing a Regional Movement Alert System (with the United States). Australia is assisting regional countries to implement measures to protect cargo, ships, aviation and travellers under APEC’s Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) initiative;

• Close cooperation continues between the Australian Federal Police and the Indonesian National Police (INP) on the Bali bombing investigation;

• An International Deployment Group (IDG) has been established within the Australian Federal Police. This Group provides the AFP with a dedicated capability with which to conduct law enforcement, peace keeping and capacity building initiatives in the region;

• The AFP has provided technical support to the Philippines in support of their investigations into terrorist bombings in Mindanao and the Southern Philippines;

• The AFP has expanded their International Network to its current tally of 64 AFP members located in 32 cities in 26 countries;

• The Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) which is a specialist intelligence unit designed to combat money laundering, has put in place agreements to exchange financial intelligence with 26 counterpart Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs);

• In 2002 Australia co-hosted with Indonesia a major regional conference on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing;

• In 2004 Australia co-hosted with Indonesia the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism at which 25 countries agreed to a series of practical measures to strengthen the regional counter terrorist effort;

• In 2004 Australia hosted the first Regional Special Forces Counter Terrorism Conference including participants from Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, China, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan, Brunei, Thailand and the US;

• In August 2004, Australia hosted a regional meeting of senior legal officials investigating the adequacy of regional legal frameworks for counter-terrorism cooperation;
• In March 2002 Australia, the US and New Zealand sponsored a conference focusing on the role Pacific Island countries have in combating terrorism;

• Australia worked with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to assist Pacific Island Countries meet their obligations under the 11 United Nations anti-terrorism instruments;

• In June 2003, Australia co-chaired with Singapore an ASEAN Regional Forum workshop on managing the consequences of a major terrorist incident, including a chemical, biological or radiological attack;

• Australia and Thailand held a combined counter-terrorism military exercise in Thailand in July of this year;

• Australia provided Indonesia with a $10 million counter terrorism package which has assisted in the establishment of a police Transnational Crime Centre to centralize crisis management planning and intelligence officer and analyst training. Australia has also provided the Philippines with a $5 million counter terrorism package designed to build their counter terrorist capabilities. This has included providing training to port security authorities to assist them comply with the International Maritime Organisation’s new port security code;

• Australia is working with Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam on their internet security systems;

• Australia has conducted maritime security workshops in the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia;

• Australia is working with Papua New Guinea on their maritime and aviation security systems;

• Australia has provided specialised training to immigration and border control officials in Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Laos, Fiji and East Timor;

• Independent border management and control assessments for Indonesia and Cambodia have been facilitated by DIMIA and assessments are scheduled for Papua New Guinea and East Timor; and

• Australia has worked with Cambodia to establish a Tactical Intelligence Unit in their Immigration Bureau.

A re-elected Coalition Government will continue to build on these initiatives to further enhance regional co-operation on counter terrorism issues.
A Coalition Government will fund a $11.2 million upgrade of the Australian Institute of Policing, located at Manly NSW. Doubling the residential capacity at the facility will enable a greater number of senior law enforcement officials from countries in the Asia-Pacific region to visit the facility for training workshops with their Australian counterparts from all jurisdictions.

A re-elected Coalition Government will commit $76.4 million to strengthen the AFP’s regional counter terrorism capability. This will include: the establishment of two new counter terrorism Regional Engagement teams to be co-located in the region; the establishment of two counter terrorism criminal intelligence teams and two counter terrorism surveillance teams to operate both within Australia and in the region. Each of these AFP teams will work closely with counterpart agencies in the region to disrupt the terrorist networks.

As part of this package, a re-elected Coalition Government will contribute $9 million to counter terrorism capacity building projects in the region. These include support for the establishment of full time Bomb Data Centres in Jakarta, Singapore and Malaysia and short term postings for selected Australian Bomb Data Centre members to Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

A Coalition Government will continue to work with our partners in the Five Power Defence Arrangement to counter terrorism in the region, including exercises involving maritime interdiction.

(iii) Winning the Battle of Ideas

As a liberal, democratic nation Australia is a target for terrorists. We were a target prior to 11 September 2001 and we have remained one since.

The reasons why we are a target are numerous and complex.

Principally, it is because we are a western nation holding values antithetical to the Muslim extremists who have sought to hijack moderate Islam and install Taliban like states.

Our values of religious tolerance, gender equality, democracy and equality before the law make us illegitimate in the minds of the extremists.

Hence it is what we are, not what we do, that drives the extremists’ hostility toward us.
When Al Qaida cite Australia’s involvement in liberating East Timor, our alliance with the United States or our combat role in Afghanistan as the cause of their grievances we must be cynical.

For it is just an opportunistic attempt to exploit these issues for their propaganda and recruitment purposes.

So too, it is misleading to claim there are ‘root causes’ of terrorism such as poverty or the Israel-Palestinian issue. One only has to look at the educated and privileged background of some of the September 11 hijackers to undermine such a claim.

Defeating terrorism requires a multi-layered approach, that particularly over the long term requires more than just a law enforcement and intelligence orientated response.

It involves, particularly in the Muslim world, a battle of ideas.

An overwhelming majority of Muslims are moderate and tolerant and have condemned the actions of a small minority who perpetuate horrific acts of terrorism in the name of Islam.

A re-elected Coalition Government stands ready to help our regional partners, in their attempts to promote moderate Islam and expose the extremists for their corruption of the teachings of the Islamic faith.

The Australian Government is already building cooperation with mainstream Islamic organizations in the region, each of which are doing important work to undercut the terrorists’ ideology.

In 2003, the leaders of Indonesia’s two largest Islamic groups, Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah were invited to Australia by the Government.

The Australian and Indonesian Governments have agreed to co-host a major inter-faith dialogue later this year involving leading religious figures from the region.

This meeting will enable participants to share perspectives and increase understanding among the faiths about key international and regional issues of concern.

The Government has also put in place an exchange program which is bringing Islamic scholars to Australia.

The Australia-Indonesia Institute has an active Inter-faith Program, building links between their countries’ Islamic and Christian organizations.
The Government has established a Council for Australian-Arab Relations which undertakes a vast range of activities in the pursuit of stronger economic, political, social and cultural ties.

In addition to these measures, the Government has also been active in promoting projects that contribute to the strength of civil society among our neighbours.

In 2004-05 the Government has allocated around $674 million for governance programs in the region.

In particular, there has been a focus on funding improved economic and financial management, strengthened law and justice systems, increased public sector effectiveness and strengthened democratic systems.

Australian Government aid projects have also supported State run secular educational projects which have been very important in providing a quality alternative to some of the religious schools – the pessantren and madrassah – some of which have proved to be a fertile ground for extremism.

Australian funded economic projects in the troubled southern Philippino province of Mindanao are another example, where targeted assistance can be very important in providing people with better living conditions and in the process reducing the allure of the terrorist’s cause.

So too, in Afghanistan and Iraq, Australia is contributing to reconstruction efforts in a bid to promote the development of a civil society where terrorism will not flourish.

Australia has contributed over $110 million to assist in the creation of a viable state in Afghanistan. After years of oppression under the Taliban, the recreation of a vibrant civil society is critical to the success of that country’s future.

Australia has committed over $120 million to humanitarian and reconstruction projects in Iraq. Capitalising on our expertise in the agriculture and financial sectors, Australia has a number of experts helping to rebuild the Iraqi economy after decades of neglect under Saddam Hussein.

Closer to home, the Coalition Government took a decision that Australia would lead the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). With the Solomon Islands fast approaching the ignominy of being a failed State, Australia’s very successful mission there has been important in preserving our national security.
Improving law and order and the economic conditions in the Solomon Islands has reduced the possibility of that country being exploited by terrorists for money laundering, gun smuggling and other illicit activities.

As the leading military and economic power in the Pacific, the Coalition Government recognizes Australia’s responsibilities for preserving stability in the region and is proud that its mission to the Solomon Islands has contributed to that end.

A re-elected Coalition Government will build on our achievements to date and devote significant resources and energy to helping win the battle of ideas within the Islamic world.

In particular, a Coalition Government will:

- Promote governance projects both within the Asia Pacific region and within the Middle East which focus on the development of civil institutions, the rule of law and transparency in government;
- Promote educational programs in the Asia Pacific region and the Middle East that encourage cross-cultural respect and provide economic opportunity for students beyond graduation;
- Promote economic development projects in the Asia Pacific region and in the Middle East that are directed at improving the economic opportunities for many of the poorest people in those areas.

## PART 3 PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION

(i) **Legislative Framework**

The first line of defence in the war in terrorism is to make sure that we have the power to deal with terrorists and to catch them before they have a chance to commit a crime.

The Government, despite Opposition attempts to frustrate the process, has introduced laws to make it a crime to commit a terrorist act; to undertake training for or prepare to commit a terrorist act; and to be a member of, or support, a terrorist organisation.

We have sought the necessary capabilities to deal with terrorists and obtained from the States a referral of constitutional power so that we can deal with terrorism on a national basis.
It took two years to get to the point where the Opposition would allow the Government-of-the-day to act swiftly in the national interest and to allow the Government to list terrorist organisations without reference to the United Nations.

We have listed and we will continue to list terrorist organisations, so that everyone knows that becoming involved with terrorism will have serious criminal consequences.

Seventeen organisations, including Al Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah – the Hezbollah External Security Organisation, the military wing of Hamas and the military wing of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba have already been listed.

Strong laws aim to prevent the movement of funds for terrorist purposes, and to enhance the exchange of information about financial transaction reports with foreign countries.

Our espionage offence provisions have been strengthened.

It is now an offence to use postal and similar services to perpetrate hoaxes, make threats and send dangerous articles.

Other laws deal with suppressing terrorist financing and improving border security.

The powers of our law enforcement and intelligence agencies have also been enhanced to give them every opportunity to investigate, prevent and, if necessary, punish terrorists.

Our agencies can now use telecommunications interception technology to investigate terrorism offences.

Australian Federal Police officers have powers to request name and address, stop and search, and seize things in suspicious circumstances.

The Government introduced important legislation to give the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) the power to seek a warrant to question, and in limited circumstances detain, a person who may have information relevant to a terrorism offence.

Again, the legislation was passed despite Opposition attempts to frustrate its passage. The provisions were further strengthened in 2003 to respond to practical issues identified by ASIO.
Despite further frustrating delays by the Opposition, the Government successfully enacted legislation to make it an offence to associate and provide support to members of terrorist organisations.

The Government’s approach to counter-terrorism legislation has been developed in response to expert advice from our intelligence and law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, criminal law advisers and other experts in their field.

But the Government’s counter-terrorism legislative framework is a work in progress. There is more to be done and the Government is committing to continually refining and improving the law.

A re-elected Coalition Government will take sign and implement the twelfth and final United Nations Counter Terrorism instruments, the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives.

A re-elected Coalition Government will further refine and strengthen Australia’s criminal law framework to support investigations into, and prosecutions of, serious crime including terrorism offences, such as the use of international video links for witnesses.

In particular, a re-elected Coalition Government will review criminal penalties in Commonwealth legislation to ensure criminal penalty levels reflect community standards.

National crime laws dealing with assumed identities and controlled operations will be enacted to put in place a nationally consistent framework.

Legislation will be enacted to support overseas criminal investigations with a particular focus on laws that will introduce streamlined procedures for the conduct of forensic procedures such as DNA matching on behalf of police in other countries.

A re-elected Coalition Government will continue to press the Labor States to enact comprehensive money-laundering legislation, supported by a reference of constitutional powers, that will specifically target funding used to support terrorist activity.

A re-elected Coalition Government will reintroduce important legislation that is being delayed by the Labor Party. The Surveillance Devices Bill and the Telecommunications Interception (Stored Communications) Bill, referred to a Senate committee by Labor, will support police services in their investigation of serious crimes including terrorism. The National Security Information (Criminal Proceedings) Bill, also delayed by Labor, would if passed provide protection for classified material tendered as evidence in a court proceeding.
(ii) Intelligence

While the work of our military forces is important, and community alertness to the terrorist threat is critical, timely and effective intelligence is far and away the best counter terrorism measure.

The Australian Intelligence Community (AIC) comprises six key agencies:

- The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO);
- The Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS);
- The Office of National Assessments (ONA);
- The Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO);
- The Defence Signals Directorate (DSD); and
- The Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation (DIGO).

Each agency performs a different role and is effective in its own right. The agencies complement each other and coordinate their activities ensuring that the AIC works very effectively as a whole.

The terrorist threat is today the priority target for the Australian Intelligence Community. For example, in 2004 ASIO devotes over 70 per cent of its resources to anti terrorist activities, whereas in 1998 it was 35-40 per cent.

Countering the assymetrical and unpredictable nature of the terrorist threat has placed new burdens on our intelligence community. The Government has responded by doubling the Australian intelligence community’s budget over the last four years.

The Government’s efforts have been directed at five key areas:

- More personnel. Staff levels in the AIC have increased by 44 per cent in the last four years, with ASIO now employing more staff then it did during the Cold War period;
- Wider powers. Despite consistent Labor opposition to the Government’s amendments to the ASIO Bill, it was finally passed by the Senate. ASIO officers now have greater powers to carry out their surveillance and interrogation functions. It is now easier to compel a person to provide ASIO with information about terrorist related activities;
• Enhanced collection and analytical capacity. The Government has implemented legislative changes so that Australia’s intelligence agencies have greater access to electronic communications and information previously denied;

• Greater international cooperation. Australian intelligence agencies are working closer than ever before with our allies and regional partners in the fight against terrorism; and

• Increased threat assessment capability. The Government has established a 24/7 National Threat Assessment Centre (NTAC) within ASIO. The Centre brings together officers from a variety of Government agencies to identify and issue assessments of threats to Australian interests, both domestically and abroad.

The Government has also sought to strengthen cooperation between agencies with intelligence responsibilities.

• The Joint Counter Terrorism Intelligence Coordination Unit was established in September 2002.

• The Counter Terrorism Information Oversight Committee (CTIOC) was established to strengthen intelligence collection and information exchange.

• The Terrorist Threat Coordination Group (TTCG) was established to coordinate threat intelligence requirements.

• The Travel Advisory Threat Assessment Meeting was established to strengthen ASIO-DFAT coordination relating to travel advisories.

• An Ambassador for Counter Terrorism was appointed to build international cooperation against terrorism and coordinate Australia’s activities in this area.

Blind to the AIC’s successes and driven by political considerations, the Labor Party is now seeking to denigrate and question the effectiveness of our intelligence community.

The Labor Party’s call for a judicial inquiry into the Australian intelligence community ignores the fact that there have been numerous major inquiries since the two Royal Commissions conducted by the late Justice Hope in the 1970s and 1980s, the most recent being the Flood Inquiry into Australian Intelligence Agencies in July 2004.
Conducted by the former Director General of ONA, Phillip Flood, the Flood Inquiry found that:

“The machinery of government reforms that have been implemented since September 11 and the Bali tragedy represent a substantial effort to deal with the increased terrorist threat. The scale of the response is appropriate and there are no clearly missing elements in the structures and institutions that have been developed. Another clear and positive feature of the changes is that they have been adopted on a whole-of-government level – the structures will require, and will promote, cooperation between agencies.” (p78)

“Communication and cooperation among the agencies is strong, and is a very positive feature of the Australian community.” (p83)

“Australian intelligence agencies are performing well overall and represent a potent capability for government. All have adapted to the major challenges posed by global terrorism and increased requirements for support to deployed Australian forces.” (p164)

The Flood Inquiry made 23 recommendations to further strengthen the capabilities of the Australian intelligence community.

The Government has accepted all but one of the recommendations from the Flood Inquiry (that one being to change the name of ONA).

A re-elected Coalition Government will implement these recommendations in full. This will include:

- Expanding the budget of ONA from $13.1 million to $25 million. Staff levels at ONA will effectively double from 74 to 145;
- The establishment of a Foreign Intelligence Coordination Committee (FICC) under the Director General of ONA. The FICC will assist the Director General of ONA in coordinating and monitoring the performance of the AIC;
- A greater role for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in coordinating the National Security of Cabinet’s consideration of the priority setting and reporting of the AIC;
- Increased funding for ASIS to build staff capacity with necessary language skills; and
- Periodic external review of the intelligence community every five to seven years.
A re-elected Coalition Government will also commit further resources to implement a number of new measures that strengthen the Australian intelligence agencies’ counter terrorism capability as well as that of the region.

This will include:

- Establishing a Centre for Counter Terrorism Intelligence Co-operation and Joint Training for Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific;
- Enhancing ASIO’s linguistic capability in Arabic and South East Asian languages; and
- Enhancing Australia’s Border Control Systems by strengthening ASIO’s capacity to undertake background security checks on persons seeking to lawfully enter Australia.

Timely and quality intelligence will be critical to Australia’s success in fighting the war against terrorism. We know we are a target and we know who the enemy is.

No Government can guarantee that a terrorist attack will not occur against its citizens and its interests.

But a re-elected Coalition Government will continue to do everything within its power to ensure that the Australian Intelligence Community is equipped to meet this challenge.

(iii) Law Enforcement

Our law enforcement agencies are the front line in the war against terrorism. Their role in detecting and preventing serious transnational organised crime and terrorism contributes to enhanced community safety.

The AFP’s reach extends beyond our border through sophisticated law enforcement cooperation arrangements with our liaison partners and regional neighbours.

The Coalition Government has strongly supported the AFP’s expanding role, ensuring that it is well-resourced, highly-trained and is equipped with the latest technologies.
Since the Coalition came to Government the AFP has experienced significant growth, with total funding increasing by 270 per cent. Some of the new measures include:

- The creation of New Joint Counter-Terrorism Investigation Teams between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and their State and Territory Police counterparts. There are now 11 teams located around the country;
- The development of an extensive Air Marshal program, with officers deployed on domestic flights and some international routes;
- The deployment of 12 new Explosive Detection Canine teams at designated airports;
- The successful completion of comprehensive protection measures for Australians attending special events such as the Rugby World Cup, Anzac Day at Gallipoli and the Bali Bombing Commemoration in Bali;
- The establishment of the High Tech Crime Centre (AHTCC) in July 2003; and
- The establishment of the Australian Crime Commission in January 2003. Merging the National Crime Authority, Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and Office of Strategic Crime Assessments, the new Commission has strengthened Australia’s counter-terrorism capability.

(iv) Border Security

A nation’s ability to combat terrorism at home depends on its ability to know who is entering and leaving the country. That is why the Government has invested considerable resources in protecting our borders:

- New advanced satellite communication systems have been fitted to all Coastwatch Dash-8 aircraft and Customs patrol vessels;
- Additional resourcing has enabled the Customs National Marine Unit to double the number of days its vessels are at sea each year;
- The Government has established a new regulatory regime requiring international airline operators and shipping lines to provide officials with information about passengers and crew prior to arrival, allowing background checks;
• The Government has installed new fraud-detecting document readers at international airports within Australia;

• The Government has improved container examination facilities at ports in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Fremantle;

• The Government is trialling state of the art facial recognition technology at designated points of entry into Australia;

• Defence and Customs are trialling High Frequency Surface Wave Radar as part of its strategy to deploy the most up to date coastal surveillance technology;

• 100 percent of all international mail is also now being x-rayed or examined by Customs or its partner agencies;

• Seventy percent of air cargo consignments are also being inspected. This is up from 30 percent in November 2001;

• Customs are undertaking a trial of world-first neutron scanning technology designed to detect explosives and drugs and other illicit substances being transported in cargo containers;

• Customs is putting in place a National Waterfront Closed-Circuit Television system allowing it to monitor 63 designated international seaport locations around the country, 24 hours-a-day;

• Customs boards approximately 80 per cent of vessels at their first port of arrival in Australia. All commercial vessels are risk assessed according to Customs’ sophisticated intelligence and assessment techniques. All passengers and crew on commercial vessels are checked through Customs and Immigration systems before their arrival in Australia; and

• Customs has trained explosives detector dogs for the maritime environment.

A re-elected Coalition Government will continue to ensure that our border protection agencies are best equipped to perform their role.

A re-elected Coalition Government will commit $39 million to:

• Provide Coastwatch with the funding to trial a small, long endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). This vehicle would identify, verify and validate target data derived from the new High Frequency Surface Wave Radar (HFSWR) system to be located in the Torres Strait. The simple nature of the small UAVs means they are portable, readily deployable and only require limited infrastructure to support operations;
• Provide Customs with new technology capable of quickly and accurately detecting chemical substances and explosives in sea and air cargo, at a cost of $13.9 million over four years;

• Introduce state-of-the-art technology at our international mail centres, at a cost of $9.2 million over four years;

• Invest an additional $7 million in the Australian Customs Service detector dog breeding and training program, ensuring the training of a further 10 detector dog teams. It will also facilitate the development of a hazardous chemical detection capability, strengthening Customs counter terrorism capacity;

• Invest over $8.4 million over four years to establish Customs offices in both Beijing and Jakarta. These posts will be important in addressing counter terrorism and border security issues; and

• At a cost of $85 million, purchase two additional Armidale Class Patrol Boats to provide dedicated surveillance and monitoring of the North West Shelf. These boats will provide an enhanced quick reaction capability to respond to potential threats, including terrorist attack, and will add to the Navy’s overall border protection capabilities.

The Coalition Government has been very effective in protecting Australia’s borders. We make no apologies for the strong measures we have taken. These have been critical to the maintenance of our sovereignty and the preservation of an orderly migration system.

(v) Critical Infrastructure

In a developed economy and society such as Australia, the scale of our supporting infrastructure is vast. The infrastructure which is considered critical comprises those physical facilities, supply chains and networks which, if destroyed or damaged, would significantly impact on our social or economic well-being or affect our national security.

It is that infrastructure that is the focus of the Government’s attention.

The Government’s critical infrastructure protection aims are:

• to improve communication and collaboration within and between business sectors;

• to engage infrastructure owners and operators in a comprehensive national approach;
• to focus effort on the most critical and vulnerable infrastructure;
• to promote best practice; and
• to increase investment in research and analysis and in the testing of vulnerabilities and Interdependencies.

With most of Australia’s critical infrastructure being owned or operated by the private sector or State and Territory Governments, the Government has developed key coordination arrangements to promote best practice in protecting critical infrastructure.

• The Government has established a Trusted Information Sharing Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection. The network comprises business leaders and government agency representatives, and provides a direct link between Government and Business.

• The Government has established a number of Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Groups representing key sectors of the economy – water, health, food, banking and finance, communications and energy. These groups develop security plans that best fit assets in that particular sector.

• Australia’s top business leaders met with the Prime Minister and senior Australian Government ministers at the Business-Government Ministerial Forum on National Security in June 2004 to strengthen the partnership between business and government in the protection of Australia against terrorism.

A re-elected Coalition Government will build on the outcomes of the June 2004 Business-Government Forum and establish an on-going advisory group as a mechanism for the Australian Government to discuss proposed new security initiatives and developments in the security environment with business.

The proposed new advisory group will also provide a forum through which Australian business can provide high level advice and feedback on national security measures as they relate to business, with a particular focus on critical infrastructure protection.

The Business-Government Advisory Group on National Security will complement the more specific ongoing medium term strategic objectives of the Trusted Information Sharing Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection.
A re-elected Coalition Government will assist Local Government implement security plans for critical infrastructure for which it is responsible. Local Government has an important role in the counter terrorist effort and therefore needs to have the relevant expertise available to effectively respond to a terrorist incident.

A re-elected Coalition Government will create a new Business Liaison Unit within ASIO. This will help ensure that the owner operators of critical infrastructure and other relevant members of the business community can access timely intelligence on matters affecting the security of assets and staff for which they are responsible. The costs for this Unit will be absorbed from within the existing budget of the Attorney General’s Department.

(vi) Transport Security

The attacks of 11 September 2001 were a tragic reminder of the terrorist threat to the aviation sector. The attacks on the USS Cole and the Madrid train system are indications of the capacity of Al Qaida and its affiliates to target the maritime and land transport sectors. Intelligence sources continue to indicate Al Qaida’s interest in these targets.

Acknowledging this threat, a priority of the Coalition Government has been to strengthen security measures designed to protect our transport infrastructure.

Some of the following facts indicate the challenge Australia faces to protect its transport system:

- Each year about 16.5 million passengers enter and leave Australia via air transport and there are about 35 million passengers movements within Australia;
- Most of Australia’s imports and exports are carried by sea; and
- 1.5 billion tonnes of freight is moved on the road network every year. Approximately 550 million passengers travel by rail every year, 97 per cent of whom use urban rail networks.

In conjunction with our border protection strategy, the Coalition Government has created a nationally consistent approach to transport security.

This culminated in the agreement by all State and Territory governments to a National Transport Security Strategy (NTSS) in April 2004.
The establishment in December 2003 of the Office of Transport Security to regulate the aviation and maritime security sectors and investigate major security incidents has strengthened the framework for protecting Australia’s transport security system.

Other measures the Government has put in place include:

**AVIATION SECURITY**

- The Aviation Transport Security Act 2004 creates new standards and regulatory practices for the aviation industry.

- Air Marshals have been introduced on domestic flights and agreement has been reached with the United States and Singapore to deploy them on international routes. Since 2002-03 $89 million has been allocated to the Air Marshals programme.

- A counter-terrorism first response capability (CTFR) has been established at all international and major domestic airports. There is now an increase in the uniformed presence of the Australian Protective Service at domestic airports to protect restricted areas and passenger terminals.

- Expansion of the Explosive Detection Canine (EDC) programme. The EDC programme now deploys 18 teams of dogs and handlers to Australia’s major airports.

- Better access control at airports. Aviation security cards have been issued to persons employed at airports. Card holders are required to undergo an ASIO security check as well as criminal history and immigration checks.

- Expanded passenger, baggage and cargo screening. 95 per cent of domestic passengers are currently screened and by the end of 2004 there is expected to be 100 per cent checked bag screening for all international flights, a full year ahead of the deadline set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

- Improved cockpit security. The Government has funded hardened cockpit doors for all passenger and charter aircraft with 30 or more seats (this betters the ICAO standard of 60 seats or more).

- Funding of $35 million has been allocated for enhanced physical security measures eg fencing and lighting at approximately 146 regional airports.
• Anti-theft measures for all general aviation aircraft, including private and corporate non-jet aircraft.

• The Government has announced the creation of four Counter Terrorism Rapid Deployment Teams to provide a response capability for regional airports. These 8 person teams will comprise Australian Federal Police Protective Service (AFPPS) officers who will have particular expertise in counter terrorism first response in the aviation environment. The teams will also incorporate a bomb appraisal and explosive detection canine capability. Intelligence and risk management driven, these teams will visit regional airports to provide expert advice and input to address the identified risks.

• The Government is delivering the capability to establish and operate passenger screening at 146 regional airports around Australia. Screening would be operating within 12 hours of a change in alert levels or in response to specific threat information. The airports are being provided with metal detector hand wand screening technology. Trained screeners are being accredited, background checked and registered with the Office of Transport Security. The programme also includes ongoing resources for training, testing and regular exercises.

• The Government has announced Aviation security training for airline and airport staff at regional airports. There is a need to increase awareness and understanding of the enhanced aviation security requirements among regional airline and staff.

• The Government is implementing a 24/7 Closed Circuit Television Surveillance at several regional airports that do not have a permanent screening presence. The feed from the CCTV will be web-based allowing for monitoring by the closest State police presence and monitoring 24/7 by the Office of Transport Security Operations Centre.

• The Government is expanding the joint Aviation Security Training and Exercise Program between Federal, State and Territory Police. The program involves regular officer training for State and Territory police in regional locations on policing aspects of aviation security.

• A Coalition Government will seek to build on the successful Air Marshal program with Singapore and the United States by extending their operation to a range of new flight routes, including to Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Canada.
MARITIME SECURITY

In July 2004, the Government announced a series of new maritime security measures worth $102 million over four years. These measures followed an ASIO assessment that found that Al Qaida and associated groups continue to have a capacity to carry out terrorist attacks against maritime interests.

The following new measures announced in July will strengthen Australia’s capacity to counter the terrorist threat to its maritime interests:

- An additional $48 million over four years to increase the rate of container examination by 25 per cent at the Australian Customs Service container x-ray facilities in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle. This is an increase from 80,000 to 100,000 containers x-rayed per year.
- Enabling Customs to board more vessels at the first port of arrival in Australia at a cost of a further $9.3 million.
- Extending the Customs closed circuit television network from the current 32 ports to 63 Customs proclaimed ports at a cost of $17 million over four years.
- Posting specialist immigration officials to ports to assist with border control at a cost of $12.3 million over four years.
- Amending the Migration Act to allow passengers on round trip cruises to be more easily checked should that be deemed necessary in future.
- A whole of government review of security arrangements for Australia’s offshore oil and gas facilities and assets. A dedicated taskforce is considering Australian Government capabilities and protocols for interdicting ships and other vessels at sea.
- Introducing a maritime security identification card for maritime industry employees, following consultation with interested parties.
- Providing additional resources to further strengthen intelligence collection and the provision of intelligence information within key ports.
- Providing an additional $4.4 million to allow the Transport Security Operations Centre within the Department of Transport and Regional Services to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
• Undertaking a detailed examination of security arrangements for transporting high-consequence dangerous goods.

• Providing additional limited ‘move on’ powers for privately engaged maritime security guards to enable them to respond with appropriate authority to any deliberate breaches of maritime security zones within and near to ports.

Australia already has a robust maritime security framework having achieved compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code by the 1 July deadline. Following the passage of the Maritime Transport Security Act 2003, a total of 248 security plans covering Australia’s ports, port facilities and ships were approved prior to the deadline.

All foreign ships seeking to enter Australian ports are now checked for compliance with the International Maritime Organisation’s security requirements.

LAND TRANSPORT SECURITY

The Coalition Government has placed a priority on strengthening security arrangements for mass urban transit and land transport.

Working to build effective cooperation with the States and Territories the Coalition Government has instigated through the National Counter Terrorism Committee a review of land transport security arrangements.

It has also overseen a meeting of Federal, State and Territory transport ministers in April 2004 who have agreed to:

• Develop and implement a national dangerous goods security programme;
• Develop a nationally consistent approach to land transport security; and
• Develop public awareness programmes of the avenues for reporting suspicious activity.

All Australian governments have agreed to strengthen security policy and planning for land transport through an Intergovernmental Agreement to be finalised by 30 November 2004.
(vii) Science and Technology

In August 2003 the Coalition Government established the Science, Engineering and Technology Unit for Counter-Terrorism (SET), within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The SET Unit’s mission statement is to coordinate and focus science, engineering and technology to support Australia’s counter-terrorism needs.

Working closely with other Federal, State and Territory Government agencies as well as with the United States and other key allies, the SET unit enables the Government to maximise its use of technology in the fight against terrorism.

Its work focuses on four capability areas:

- Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear countermeasures;
- Explosives;
- Physical and Information security; and
- Intelligence, surveillance and operations.

Earlier this year, the Unit conducted a Large Vehicle Borne – Improvised Explosive Device (LVB-IED) Workshop and separately a workshop on Geospatial Information Systems. The latter workshop focused on the use of aerial photography and satellite technology as counter terrorism measures.

A re-elected Coalition Government will further strengthen the role of the SET unit by:

- Completing negotiations with the US Technical Support Working Group on a bilateral agreement for research and development.
- Establish a formal arrangement for information and staff exchanges with the Department of Homeland Security on science and technology related aspects of domestic security.

A re-elected Coalition Government will also:

- Establish a special collaborative research and development programme between the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation to further
their work on counter terrorism related projects. Projects will focus on chemical and biological protection, intelligence support tools, explosive detection, biometrics and counter measures for civilian aircraft from shoulder fired missiles (MANPADS). This programme will be established using the existing resources of these three organisations.

(viii) **Hazardous Materials**

Under the auspices of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the Federal Government has coordinated a national review of the regulation, reporting and security around the sale, handling and storage of hazardous materials.

Conscious of the possible unauthorized use of hazardous materials for terrorist activities, the review was designed to identify additional security measures that could be put in place.

The review is being conducted in four parts:

- Ammonium nitrate;
- Radioactive materials;
- Biological materials; and
- Chemicals.

The review of Ammonium nitrate is now complete. COAG agreed in June 2004 to the recommendation that there be a national licencing system. This will include strict regulatory guidelines as well as background ASIO checks to strengthen the sale, storage, transport and use of ammonium nitrate.

Each State and Territory is expected to have their legislative arrangements in place by November of this year.

A separate review by the National Institute of Forensic Science (NIFS) is being conducted into explosive precursors.

The Commonwealth Government has provided funding to the NIFS to undertake a study to:

- Identify those common precursor chemicals that may be used for the preparation of improvised explosive mixtures;
- Examine the potential for monitoring a specific number of common precursor chemicals; and
• Establish a model for the national management and dissemination of information relating to common precursor chemicals.

The final report from the NIFS is expected shortly. The recommendations of the NIFS review will be considered in conjunction with those from the COAG review, with a view to developing a consistent set of protocols and regulations.

Both the COAG and NIFS reviews into hazardous chemicals are a good illustration of how the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments can work effectively together to strengthen our security arrangements.

PART 4 RESPONDING TO A TERRORIST INCIDENT

(i) Australian Defence Force

Since the events of September 11, 2001 the Coalition Government has moved to strengthen the Australian Defence Force’s (ADF) capacity to respond to a domestic terrorist incident. The Government has:

• Established a second counter-terrorist Tactical Assault Group (TAG) in Sydney to complement the existing TAG based in Perth;
• Established an Incident Response Regiment based in Sydney with a capability to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and explosive incidents;
• Established a new Special Operations Command with an extra 330 combat and combat support personnel with the ability to undertake a counter terrorism response;
• Established a high-readiness company sized group (about 150) in each of the six Reserve Brigades in all State capital cities to support civil authorities in the event of a major domestic security incident;
• Enhanced security for Defence personnel and facilities including increased guarding, patrolling and protective searches;
• Strengthened the communication and information security assessment role of the Defence Signal’s Directorate;
• Increased amphibious counter terrorism training exercises for our Special Forces;
• New Special Forces training facilities to be built at Holsworthy Barracks. The facilities will be used to train for counter terrorist scenarios and other specific Special Forces roles including snipers, commandos and the Incident Response Regiment;

• Australia hosted the first Regional Special Forces Counter Terrorism Conference including participants from Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, China, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan, Brunei, Thailand and the US;

• At a cost of $1 billion equip the Army with 12 new troop lift helicopters to strengthen Australia’s counter terrorism capabilities by releasing a Black Hawk squadron;

• Australia and Thailand held a combined counter terrorism military exercise in Thailand in July of this year;

• Wide area surveillance of sea and air approaches to Australia’s northern coastline through the completed JORN over-the-horizon high frequency radar network; and

• Established an ADF taskforce comprising a Navy frigate, patrol boats and P3 Orion patrol aircraft to undertake surveillance and enforcement activities in our northern maritime approaches.

Together these measures have significantly strengthened the counter terrorism capabilities of the ADF.

(ii) Law Enforcement Agencies

In the event that a terrorist incident does occur State and Territory police take responsibility for the operational management in their jurisdiction.

However, where a National Terrorist Situation is declared, the Federal Government will take overall responsibility.

Australian Government agencies, in particular the AFP, ASIO, the ADF and the Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC), would play critical roles in formulating a national response.

The Australian Government has sought to strengthen these agencies as outlined in the sections above.
(iii) Emergency Services

Central to the Coalition Government’s national security strategy is the effective coordination of the resources of State, Territory and Local Governments.

To this end, the Commonwealth is actively involved in building the capacity of States and Local Government to respond to a terrorist incident should one occur.

The Coalition Government has:

- Committed $17.8 million in the 2002-03 Budget to improving the capacity of states and territories to respond to a chemical, biological or radiological attack; and
- Conducted regular multi-agency training between federal, state and territory police and emergency response teams.

In the event of a terrorist incident, Emergency Management Australia (EMA) will be the lead agency in coordinating Commonwealth assistance.

This is likely to involve implementing measures designed to protect public health and safety, restoring essential government services and providing emergency relief.

In particular, the Government has sought to strengthen its capability to undertake an effective Health Emergency Response. The Australian Government has:

- Committed an additional $27 million since July 2002 to upgrade Australia’s national medicines stockpile. The stockpile supplements medical stocks maintained in the Australian hospital system, and includes a range of vaccines, chemical antidotes, antibiotics and diagnostic tests that can be disseminated in the event of terrorist attack; and
- Established the Australian Health Disaster Management Policy Committee. Chaired by the Chief Medical Officer and involving state and territory chief health officers, senior officials from EMA, Defence and the New Zealand Ministry of Health, it has coordinated efforts to strengthen Australia’s health response capability.
As outlined Part 1 (ii), a re-elected Coalition Government will introduce new measures to strengthen the emergency management capacity of Local Government and specialist Volunteer Organisations with a $33 million Local Government Security Partnership Programme and a $16 million National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GOVERNMENT’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strengthened the role of the National Security Committee of Cabinet who now meet on a regular basis to decide on the major security issues of the day.

- Established a National Security Division within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to coordinate counter-terrorism activities across Government.

- Created a National Counter Terrorism Plan which has been endorsed by all jurisdictions and sets out the division of responsibilities between them to prevent and manage acts of terrorism.

- Established a comprehensive series of multi-jurisdictional counter-terrorism exercises to test response capabilities in the event of a terrorist incident.

- Raised public awareness through a highly successful major electronic and print media campaign launched in December 2002 “Be Alert Not Alarmed”.

- Strengthening Australia’s most important strategic partnership with the United States.

- Contributing $36.8 million to the establishment of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation which will focus on multi-jurisdictional investigations and contribute to a strengthened counter-terrorism capability in the region.

- Entered into counter-terrorism memorandums of understanding for practical cooperation between Australian agencies and their regional counterparts with nine countries in the region.

- Established an International Deployment Group (IDG) within the Australian Federal Police to provide the AFP with a dedicated capability with which to conduct law enforcement, peace keeping and capacity building initiatives in the region.

- Co-hosted with Indonesia the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism.

- Hosted a regional meeting of senior legal officials investigating the adequacy of regional legal frameworks for counter-terrorism cooperation.

- Contributed over $110 million to assist in the creation of a viable state in Afghanistan.

- Committed over $120 million to humanitarian and reconstruction projects in Iraq.
• Closer to home, the Coalition Government took a decision that Australia would lead the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). With the Solomon Islands fast approaching the ignominy of being a failed State, Australia’s hugely successful mission there has been critical to preserving our national security.

• Enacted laws to make it a crime to commit a terrorist act; to undertake training for or prepare to commit a terrorist act; and to be a member of, or support, a terrorist organisation.

• Obtained from the States a referral of constitutional power so that we can deal with terrorism on a national basis.

• Increased staff levels in the Australian intelligence community by 44 per cent in the last four years, with ASIO now employing more staff than at any time during the Cold War period.

• Established a 24/7 National Threat Assessment Centre (NTAC) within ASIO to identify and issue assessments of threats to Australian interests, both domestically and abroad.

• Appointed an Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism to build international cooperation against terrorism and coordinate Australia’s activities in this area.

• Increased funding for the AFP by 270 per cent since 1996.

• Created new Joint Counter-Terrorism Investigation Teams between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and their State and Territory Police counterparts.

• Developed an extensive Air Marshal program, with officers deployed on domestic flights and some international routes.

• Established the Australian Crime Commission to strengthen Australia’s counter-terrorism capability.

• 100 per cent of all international mail is also now being x-rayed or examined by Customs or its partner agencies.

• Established a Trusted Information Sharing Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection comprising business leaders and government agency representatives.

• Established a number of Infrastructure Assurance Advisory Groups representing key sectors of the economy – water, health, food, banking and finance, communications and energy.

• Held a Business-Government Ministerial Forum on National Security to strengthen the partnership between business and government in the protection of Australia against terrorism.
• Established a counter-terrorism first response capability at all international and major domestic airports.

• Issued aviation security cards to all persons employed at airports.

• 95 per cent of domestic aviation passengers are currently screened. By the end of 2004 the target is for 100 per cent checked bag screening for all international flights, a full year ahead of the deadline set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

• Allocated $35 million for enhanced physical security measures at approximately 146 regional airports.

• Achieved compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code by the 1 July deadline.

• Placed a priority on strengthening security arrangements for mass urban transit and land transport.

• Established the Science, Engineering and Technology Unit for Counter-Terrorism (SET), within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to coordinate and focus science, engineering and technology to support Australia’s counter-terrorism needs.

• Established a second counter-terrorist Tactical Assault Group (TAG) in Sydney to complement the existing TAG based in Perth.

• Established an Incident Response Regiment based in Sydney with a capability to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and explosive incidents.

• Established a new Special Operations Command with an extra 334 combat and combat support personnel with the ability to undertake a counter terrorism response.

• Committed $17.8 million in the 2002-03 Budget to improving the capacity of states and territories to respond to a chemical, biological or radiological attack.

• Conducted regular multi-agency training between federal, state and territory police and emergency response teams.

• Committed an additional $27 million since July 2002 to upgrade Australia’s national medicines stockpile.
LABOR’S ALTERNATIVE

On national security the Labor Party is weak.

In the absence of an original and coherent policy framework of their own, the ALP has ironically adopted from the United States their two national security proposals.

The first is the establishment of a department of homeland security and the second the creation of a US style coastguard.

Both of these proposals are ill suited to Australia’s national security needs and if implemented will be counterproductive, leaving Australians less secure.

Both the Coastguard and a Department of Homeland Security would represent an expensive exercise in bureaucratic reshuffling which will undermine the effective and proven systems already in place.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The ALP believes that a Department of Homeland Security is a cure all. That is just not the case.

They have not thought through the very serious implications of restructuring Australia’s national security arrangements.

Labor’s lack of attention to detail and confused approach to the critical issue of national security was starkly revealed when they released a one-page chart headed “Proposed Homeland Security Portfolio” as part of their “Machinery of Government” policy. The chart was released without any accompanying explanatory material.

Labor’s Department of Homeland Security leaves out key agencies from key national security tasks such as border protection, and will leave the staff of many existing agencies in grave doubt about their future under Labor.

In the middle of a global war on terror, Labor would squander the precious time of our intelligence, security and border protection agencies on trying to implement their massive, ill-defined and unworkable political fix.
There are a number of serious questions and conflicts that Labor must answer immediately over their national security plans:

- Why is Labor proposing to break-up the Australian Customs Service and the Department of Immigration, both of which have served Australia extremely well to keep out illicit drugs, illegal arrivals and other threats to the nation’s welfare?

- The Australian Federal Police is a highly experienced and valuable organisation, but is not involved and has no experience in maritime surveillance – yet Labor’s proposed structure gives the AFP direct responsibility for the “Coastguard”. The then Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, Mick Palmer, told the Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit in January 2001 that:
  - “My unqualified experience in looking at arrangements in countries where there are coastguard type arrangements…..is that I would gain no comfort at all from those arrangements. Those arrangements have caused a division through the investigative focus and it has caused competition between the investigative agencies in a very counterproductive way.”

- Robert McClelland has already confirmed (Seven Sunrise, 7 March 2004) that Customs would be merged into the Homeland Security Department, but that “the revenue side of things, that would still be part of Treasury.” What would happen to the vital non-security issues currently handled by Customs such as anti-dumping?

- How many jobs would be lost in the confusion and dislocation that would result from this bureaucratic reshuffling, at a time when our agencies should be firmly focused on fighting terrorism? Mr McClelland has previously said of the US experience on which Labor’s proposal is modelled: “Obviously some senior management positions went, obviously some supervisory positions went” (Sunrise, 7 March 2004);

- Where will the funding for the new Department come from? Robert McClelland has maintained “it won’t cost anything” and that he could guarantee that there would be no extra cost incurred by creating the new department (Sunrise, 7 March);

- Will the new Department merely be a duplication of existing resources? Mr McClelland has already admitted (Speech to Road and Rail Conference, 24 August) that existing Departments will keep their security roles: “An Australian Department of Homeland Security would not for example entail the Department of Transport having no responsibility for security.
issues. Clearly it has to.” If there is duplication of services, how can there be no extra costs?

• Why is Labor changing a system that works well to protect Australia from terrorism?

• The success of Mercury 04, involving more than 3,000 members of our national security agencies, is clear evidence of this excellent connectivity – which Labor would jettison;

• Despite references to intelligence and law enforcement coordination, the Homeland Security Department would have coverage over only one intelligence agency (ASIO), with the balance remaining in Defence and DFAT and ONA continuing to report to the Prime Minister. This is despite Simon Crean’s justification for the Department of Homeland Security: “We need a Department to coordinate all the intelligence-gathering” (22 May 2003, Radio 4TO).

Labor’s boast that “We’ve got no hesitation in mimicking the American model” (Robert McClelland, Sunrise 7 March 2004) was made without any understanding by Labor of the serious and wide-ranging consequences of creating an Australian Department of Homeland Security.

Labor has clearly not thought this through, despite the crucial nature of arrangements affecting Australia’s national security.

Their half-baked proposal, which prompts more questions than it answers, makes an absolute mockery of the statement by Mark Latham to Parliament on 30 March 2004 that: “A Labor Government also wants a Department of Homeland Security – a one stop shop...where you can get national security coordination between the national government and the States and Territories.”

The Government has strengthened Australia’s capacity for counter terrorism, allocating over $3.2 billion in additional funds since 11 September 2001.

We have created new organisational structures such as the National Threat Assessment Centre within ASIO, the National Security Division within PM&C and the Office of Transport Security within DOTARS. These changes have been based on expert advice.

Other nations such as the UK have examined the Homeland Security structure and decided it does not suit them, so Australia would need to think very carefully before it disrupts a system that works well to protect its citizens.
POSSIBLE MERGER BETWEEN ASIO AND AFP

Labor’s security spokesman Robert McClelland said “They (ASIO and AFP) would be brought under one departmental structure, including ideally the one premises. Their budgets would be amalgamated initially and then (we would) sort through the accommodation issues. Instead of communications and orders going up and down the existing silos of AFP and ASIO (there would be) cross flow of all that information and better direction.” (“Plan to link Feds, ASIO” Sunday Mail 22/2/04). A similar article in the Sunday Telegraph on the same day said “The proposal would be one of the ALP’s key election pledges”.

Has the ALP abandoned its plan to merge the Australian Federal Police and ASIO? Or is it a secret plan they will only confirm after the election?

This would be a dangerous development and ignores the fact that the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand all separate their law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

The ALP’s proposal also ignores the differing role, powers and priorities of the AFP as a law enforcement agency to those of ASIO which is principally an intelligence gathering organisation.

If the ALP proposal was to take effect, it would have a dramatic impact on the Australian Federal Police’s ability to conduct coordinated activities and investigation with its regional counterparts. One would expect other countries to be more cautious and less cooperative were they to be dealing with a foreign intelligence agency as opposed to a law enforcement organisation.

COASTGUARD

The ALP policy for a US style Coastguard is equally flawed.

Again, this policy is not thought through and based on flawed costing assessments.

Labor first launched this policy in October 2001. Since that time it has had five versions – each one committing less funds.

The fact is that Mark V is costed at $600 million less than the first proposal – from $900 million in 2001 to $300 million today.

Latham’s magic pudding keeps stretching… just like his credibility. The fact that this is Labor’s 5th attempt in three years shows what a mess Mark Latham’s policy really is.
In fact, every time the ill-conceived Coastguard policy gets re-announced, Labor promises to do more for less money.

- Kim Beazley released Labor’s first Coastguard policy in October 2001 (costed at $895 million but unfunded).
- Simon Crean released Labor’s second Coastguard policy in November 2002 (costed at $612 million but unfunded).
- Mark Latham released yet another version in March 2004 (uncosted and unfunded).
- Robert McClelland on 30 June 2004 released another version of Coastguard also in Darwin (costing estimated at $500 million but unfunded).
- Mark Latham now expects the Australian people to believe he can set up and run a Coastguard for $300 million.

The Coastguard is based on the flawed premise that according to opposition spokesman Robert McClelland Australians “don’t have an interdiction capacity on our northern border…under the Constitution, they (the Navy) can’t use force for domestic policing activities.” (Sunday Sunrise, 7 March 2004)

This is absolute nonsense. Both the Royal Australian Navy and Customs vessels have an armed interdiction capacity and the constitutional authority to use it.

A Coastguard will remove the coastal surveillance function from the Navy. This is a function that is a traditional role for the Navy and one they have performed very well.

The Coastguard would compete with the Navy for personnel and deny the Navy an important training ground for its capabilities.

It will also have the intended effect of forcing previously non-unionised members of the Navy who transfer to the Coastguard into membership of the Maritime Union of Australia.

It is no wonder, then, that the CFMEU website says “the Coalition Government will not support the creation of an Australian Coastguard because it would be manned by members of the Maritime Union.”

So too are the Labor Party confused about why they need a coastguard in the first place.
Robert McClelland said that terrorists could be arriving in Australia by unauthorised boats. “Indeed they could be carrying terrorists. To say to a boatload look, if you’re a terrorist and you want to come into the country, come into one of the small islands because we really can’t protect it, is quite frankly surrender” (Sunday 9/11/03)

Whereas Kim Beazley has a different view. He has said, “there is more and more of an understanding that terrorists don't arrive on a hit-and-miss process by boats. They arrive in planes, in business suits with good haircuts and impeccable credentials, though probably false.” (Lateline 25 September 2001)

Which is the Labor view – McClelland or Beazley? Not only does the structure and costings of the ALP’s Coastguard proposal change on a regular basis, but so do the reasons behind it.

The clearest evidence of the effectiveness of the Coalition Government’s border protection arrangements is the fact that since November 2001 only one group of unauthorised boat arrivals has reached the Australian mainland.

But this successful record will be at risk under a Labor Government.

The removal of the Navy’s role in coastal surveillance at the expense of a Coastguard, the abolition of the Pacific Solution which has been such a deterrent to people smugglers and the abandonment of the principle of mandatory detention will have the net effect of sending a green light to the people smugglers.

Mark Latham, with his policies on border protection, has sent a message to the people smugglers: welcome back, we are open for business.

PROSCRIPTION OF TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS AND COUNTER TERRORISM LEGISLATION

The Australian community demands that our counter-terrorism laws are strong and effective.

In contrast to the Government's record of actively strengthening our national security legislative framework the Labor Party has a history of delaying the passage, and watering down the provisions, of Australia's counter-terrorism legislation.

Labor agreed to the Government's power to proscribe terrorist organisations in Australia without reference to the United Nations.
At the same time, the Shadow Minister for Homeland Security issued a press release noting Labor’s view about the inherent unreliability of primary intelligence material.

The Shadow Minister also confirmed that a Labor Government would introduce a slow, cumbersome and costly court-based model of listing terrorist organisations.

The Labor Party has also committed itself to rolling back the laws that give ASIO the power to question and detain people with information about planned terrorism activities. Debating the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002, Simon Crean said in Parliament on 26 June 2003:

"Whilst the Senate has sent back amendments and it is the intention of the Labor Party to not insist on these amendments at this point for the purposes of getting the bill through, I want to place on record the intention of the Labor Party, when elected, to amend the act to ensure that custody is limited to a maximum of 72 hours under each warrant and to remove the reversal of the onus of proof for elements of some of the offences. We believe that this bill is not perfect, but it is a substantial move in the right direction. I am flagging those two initiatives to indicate what we would do in government."

The Labor Party gives new meaning to the term ‘roll back’. It intends to roll back our strong terrorism laws, laws already in use and supported by our law enforcement and intelligence services.

The Labor Party has also used the Senate Committee process to delay the passage of important legislation: the ASIO Terrorism Act, the Telecommunications Interception (Stored Communications) Bill, the Surveillance Devices Bill and the three Anti-Terrorism Acts.

Even where the Labor Party has expressed support for the Government’s initiatives, it has referred the Bills to Senate Committees rather than doing the hard work of reviewing the provisions in detail for themselves.

**Labor Inquiry into the Australian Intelligence Community**

The Labor Party has made clear its intention to divert important resources away from the war on terror by pursuing its policy of a judicial inquiry into security agencies.
At least two shadow ministers and the Opposition Leader have made calls for a judicial inquiry into security agencies, without making the case as to why it is needed.

If Labor’s proposals were followed, it would take senior people in ASIO and other agencies off the important task of investigating and disrupting terrorist activities that potentially threaten the Australian community.

At the very time when we hear threats coming from Al Qaida and other terrorist organisations singling out Australia, we do not want our agencies diverted to preparing for a lengthy inquiry that appears to have little reasoning behind it.

**REGIONAL AVIATION SECURITY**

Labor’s $17 million regional airport security plan is riddled with mistakes and inconsistencies. It is also far less comprehensive than the Government’s policy for regional airports.

Labor has promised to provide 17 airports with permanent security screening. This list of 17 airports was based on each airport having more than 50,000 passengers a year.

But Labor’s list is flawed. They left out the airports of Mildura (112,000 passengers) and Orange (51,000 passengers) and named two airports that already have screening, Port Hedland and Proserpine.

It shows that Mark Latham and Labor cannot be trusted to get the details of policy right – and on security issues, it’s the details that count.

One may also ask, why did Labor choose a random cut-off of 50,000 passengers? What about airports like Maryborough with 48,192 passengers or Griffith with 49,457?

There is no threat assessment or scientific basis to make 50,000 the cut-off. If someone was determined to do harm, would they not simply choose an airport under the 50,000 threshold where the ALP is not proposing screening?

The fine print in Labor’s policies are always revealing.

While the ALP promises permanent screening at 17 documents, the fine print in its policy document states that “Airports would be required to cover the operating costs of installed screening equipment”.
The Department of Transport estimates the operating costs to be between $200,000-400,000 a year depending on the size of the airport. This cost will either be passed on to the passenger via a levy, absorbed by the airport or in some cases may lead to the closure of the airport.

In contrast to Labor’s policy shambles, the Coalition has a careful and comprehensive plan to protect 146 regional airports across Australia, not just the 17 announced by Labor.

Under the Government’s $83 million plan for regional airports, there will be AFP Rapid Deployment Teams, security infrastructure grants, closed circuit television trials, a public awareness campaign, hardened cockpit doors for charter planes and screening equipment and staff training to provide 146 regional airports with screening within 12 hours of a change in threat level.

With such a comprehensive package, it is no wonder even Premier Beattie welcomed its release on 23 August 2004.

The Government has also received industry endorsement for the package from the Australian Airports Association, Rex and Qantas, and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) who said, “AOPA particularly welcomes the very sensible risk management approach to be adopted; it is critical that the measures are proportionate to the risk. AOPA warmly welcomes the funding arrangements; no cost burdens will fall on the shoulders of small businesses that are already struggling to survive in areas of economic contraction, brought about by drought and other factors beyond their control.”

Under Labor’s policy, it will exactly be these ‘struggling’ small businesses that will meet the cost burden of permanent screening.
## Costings Summary

### National Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Measure</th>
<th>2004-05 $m</th>
<th>2005-06 $m</th>
<th>2006-07 $m</th>
<th>2007-08 $m</th>
<th>Total $m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Counter Terrorism Intelligence Co-operation and Joint Training Unit for Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased Linguistic Capability</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced Border Control Systems</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Counter Terrorism Exercises</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>