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AIRPORT

1 May 2026

Australian Communications and Media Authority
Level 3, 40 Cameron Avenue
Belconnen ACT 2617

To: Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

Launceston Airport requests that the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) progress a review of the current body scanner licensing arrangements to enable Launceston Airport, and other entities, to deploy new-generation body scanning technologies that operate outside the technical parameters of the existing class licence, as part of their security operations.

In Launceston Airport's view:

- new-generation body scanners deliver material security, operational and passenger experience benefits; and
- the successful conduct of trials provides a compelling case to bring forward a formal review of the licensing framework, rather than deferring it.

Without further action by the ACMA, Launceston Airport will be required to revert to older-generation screening equipment at the conclusion of the current trial period, despite the demonstrated benefits of newer technology.

Launceston Airport has utilised Leidos ProVision 2 (PV2) body scanners for security screening since November 2023. The ACMA has recently reissued a scientific apparatus licence permitting the operation of the Leidos ProVision 3 (PV3) body scanner at Launceston Airport, which expires on 2 March 2027.

During operation under the approved scientific licence, Launceston Airport has found that the ProVison 3 (PV3)

- supports materially higher passenger throughput compared to the PV2;
- achieves lower false alarm rates, reducing the need for secondary manual searches;
- enables screening in a more relaxed 'arms-down' posture, delivering particular benefits for older passengers and those with mobility constraints; and
- has generated positive feedback from screening officers, including reduced sensitive-area searches and fewer nuisance alarms relative to the PV2.

Launceston Airport has not been notified of any interference concerns or issues raised by other spectrum users arising from the operation of the PV3.

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Launceston Airport completed a competitive procurement process for the PV3, during which it was identified as the most advanced and future-ready body scanner currently available in the market, based on both capability and the forward development pathway outlined by the manufacturer, Leidos.

Launceston Airport currently services more than 1.4 million passengers annually, with passenger volumes forecast to grow year-on-year over the Airport's 20-year master planning horizon. The investment in PV3 represents a ten-year strategic commitment, supported by key airline partners including the Qantas Group and Virgin Australia.

Accordingly, Launceston Airport respectfully requests that the ACMA consider this submission and include a review of body scanner licensing arrangements within the 2026–2031 Work Program, to facilitate the transition to new-generation body scanning technologies.

Your Sincerely,

Gareth Coe
Interim Head of Operations,
Launceston Airport