Statement from the Chief Minister

12 September 2014

The Northern Territory Government has begun implementing its security plans in response to the increase in the National Terrorism Public Alert level from Medium to High.

I want Territorians to understand that this decision has not been made because of any specific plot but because there is now a body of intelligence that there are people with the intent and capability to mount attacks in Australia.

As a result, the nation’s security and intelligence agencies have assessed that an attack in Australia is likely.

Territorians should be assured that I have set in train the Government’s strategic security processes in response to the Prime Minister’s announcement this afternoon.

I want to stress that this means business as usual for Territorians.

The Territory is a vibrant multicultural society that welcomes people from all over the world. Today’s announcement won’t change that.

The majority of us will only notice an increase in security activity at our airports, ports, military bases, government buildings and at large public gatherings.

After a phone hook up with the Prime Minister, and other State and Territory leaders at lunchtime today, the Northern Territory Cabinet was briefed on the change to the threat level.

Subsequently, a meeting of the Territory’s Emergency Management Committee was convened this afternoon to ensure that extra security planning procedures are being implemented.

I attended this meeting and can assure Territorians that our security plans are up to date and that appropriate steps are being taken to respond to this change in the threat level.

The Northern Territory participates in and contributes to national counter terrorism strategies and arrangements and is well-practised in specific counter terrorism plans and procedures.

Territory Government agencies will implement any additional security measures in line with the increase in the national threat level.
I also want to urge local businesses to review their security systems and update their contact details with the Northern Territory Police.

Our local authorities will work together with these owners and operators to ensure they have the information and support they need.

I want to remind Territorians to remain vigilant. The community is integral to combatting terrorism. Information from the public has contributed to every major counter-terrorism investigation in Australia.

If you see or hear something that doesn’t feel right, you should contact the National Security Hotline immediately on 1800 1234 00. You can remain anonymous.

Today’s developments should send a message that the Australian and Northern Territory Governments take security issues seriously and will take whatever steps are necessary to protect Territorians from threats to their safety.

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