



NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM ARRANGEMENTS

NATIONAL TERRORISM PUBLIC ALERT SYSTEM

What is the Alert System?

- The National Terrorism Public Alert System is a range of four levels (low, medium, high, extreme) that communicate an assessed risk of terrorist threat to Australia.
- The National Terrorism Public Alert System guides national preparation and planning. It also dictates levels of precaution and vigilance to minimise the risk of a terrorist incident occurring.
- The Australian Government regularly reviews alert levels.

What's changing?

- The four levels (low, medium, high, extreme) will remain the same; the difference is in how they are applied across the nation.
- The difference is that Australian governments will now be able to change an alert level for one or more impacted communities, locations or sectors as required.

Why is it changing?

- The previous approach required a “one in, all in” approach. If an alert level was changed for one community, geographic location or sector it would be changed for all.
- The previous approach, while comprehensive, could be expensive and onerous for communities not impacted by the particular situation causing the change in alert level.
- The increases in security and resources required to maintain a higher alert level can impact on a community's ability to maintain core business, keep critical infrastructure operating and maintain public confidence.

What are the benefits?

- The Public Alert System will reduce unnecessary disruptions to everyday life. Impacts will be avoided in communities, locations or sectors not affected by the alert level change.
- Australian governments will now be able to change an alert level for one or more impacted communities, locations or sectors as required.

Who will communicate a change in alert level?

- A change in alert level(s) will be communicated by the Prime Minister or representative. Your Premier/Chief Minister is likely to provide you with more information specific to your State or Territory.

How does this apply to me?

- While the Public Alert System may not directly affect your day to day life, it is important that you are aware that these arrangements exist. All Australian governments are committed to ensuring that you can have confidence in Australia's ability to respond to any terrorist threat or activity.

Need more information?

- For more information about the National Terrorism Public Alert System, please go to www.nationalsecurity.gov.au.



Australian Government

*A joint initiative of the Australian,
State and Territory Governments*