



National Guidelines for Protecting Critical Infrastructure from Terrorism

What is critical infrastructure?

The Australian Government defines critical infrastructure as:

those physical facilities, supply chains, information technologies and communication networks which, if destroyed, degraded or rendered unavailable for an extended period, would significantly impact on the social or economic well-being of the nation, or affect Australia's ability to conduct national defence and ensure national security.

About the Guidelines

The *National Guidelines for Protecting Critical Infrastructure from Terrorism* provide a nationally consistent approach to help critical infrastructure owners and operators protect their assets from terrorism.

The guidelines have been designed specifically to help critical infrastructure owners and operators make informed decisions about risk management and security planning. They are also used by government organisations at the national, State and Territory, and local government levels.

They provide information on different areas of responsibility, how critical infrastructure is identified, how to prepare risk assessments, how to manage public information and the media, prevention and preparedness, and response and recovery. They are not a public document.

The Attorney-General's Department developed the guidelines under the direction of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee. They were prepared following extensive consultation with Commonwealth, State, Territory and local governments. The private sector provided input through the Trusted Information Sharing Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection. The Commonwealth, State and Territory governments have endorsed the guidelines.

The guidelines complement both the *National Counter-Terrorism Plan* and the *Critical Infrastructure Protection National Strategy*. The *National Counter-Terrorism Plan* is available on the National Security website (www.nationalsecurity.gov.au). The *Critical Infrastructure Protection National Strategy* is available on the Trusted Information Sharing Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection website (www.tisn.gov.au).