**ATTACHMENT A**

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PASSPORT DETERMINATION**

**Regional Movement Alert System**

1. The country specific information will be removed from the list of persons to whom **information may be disclosed** for the purposes of implementing the **Regional Movement Alert System (RMAS) with all foreign border agencies.**

The purpose of these amendments is to support the operation of RMAS between Australia and participating countries; an APEC counter-terrorism initiative designed to strengthen the capacity of participating economies to detect lost, stolen and invalid (including counterfeit) travel documents. Amending the Determination in the manner proposed will enable Australia to enter into new agreements with APEC members as they seek to join without the need to amend the Determination on each occasion to provide for disclosure to the particular new participant.

RMAS does not involve countries directly accessing or transferring each other’s passport data. Data is not exchanged. Through the RMAS electronic broker system, passengers’ passport data is verified prior to entry to a participant country. The response is limited to a “Y” for a valid passport or a “N” for an invalid passport.

The US, Philippines and New Zealand are already participants in the scheme. This is reflected in the current Determination. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has been working for some time to implement RMAS with Thailand.