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Stephen Byron
Managing Director
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Dear Stephen,

I am pleased to write in regard to the Canberra Airport Masterplan. As a supplier of services to the Canberra Airport we have been pleased with the association and the growth of our business due to your ongoing support.

As a Canberran whose family has been in business locally since the 1920's it is a real credit to both the owners and managers of the airport to have seen through a ten year vision of development, which now unbelievably seems commonplace as part of the landscape.

It is also now clear to the outside observer that the Canberra Airport has responded to the trends in airline travel, greenfield site development and needs of the community to create and continue to create a world benchmark airport with the development of the new terminal.

I am concerned that with the groundwork well and truly underway the airport will not manage to springboard to the next level by being restricted with infrastructure and daytime only flights, potentially putting off investor companies in freight and international travel.

It is obvious that the Canberra Airport is yet to scratch the surface in comparison to other internationally recognised airports and the importance of their role as strategic infrastructure hubs. It is paramount that the future development of the airport be recognised for its freight handling potential and thus it will only become a viable option with night freight flights offering companies the use of 'modes' of transport for total distribution concepts.

Therefore, it would be disappointing to restrict these opportunities with the development of housing estates underneath the traditional flight-paths which I believe have remained under industrial and rural use for some decades now.

Logically Canberra and the surrounding region will support the development of freight hubs and distribution centres. Other companies have recognised the potential of the region for labour resources and distribution. Take for example Revlon Australia's national distribution centre based in Hume. Linfox has also recognised the distribution hub and spoke strategy and has focussed a new national redistribution centre in Goulburn. By interconnecting significant cities with road, rail and air, other countries such as Japan and regions such as Europe, have managed to prosper with infrastructure development. This master plan looks to achieve the same success.

I will be clear to offer my support for the future development of a Canberra Airport that will continue to support the region that encompasses it. It is evident that the airport is starting to become a world leader in 'fly in' business parks. A natural progression currently underway is the development of infrastructure to support our regions hotels, conference and leisure facilities. The exciting step to develop international freight and travel can open up endless possibilities of growth for the region. For example; Government endorsed and local 'fly in – fly out' manufacturing facilities, international freight handling and transshipment, perishable goods handling such as fruit, vegetables and flowers sourced globally and transhipped regionally, etc.

To lose track of a strategic vision that is sympathetic to the needs of the community and encompasses continued business growth, would, I believe be a clear mistake. Congratulations on the benchmarks achieved over the past decade and may there be more to come.

Yours sincerely,

James Kilmartin
Director
CCS Mechanical Installations