



Stephen,

As you know, Kelli and I have committed ourselves, our three young boys, and our six employees to the future of the Canberra Airport Precinct. When we purchased the Cafe last December, we did so in the full knowledge that the economy was entering into a difficult phase and that a significant downturn was just around the corner. However, we looked at the history and growth of the Precinct over the last decade, and took this into account when making what has been the most significant economic decision of our business lives. In particular, for the sake of our son's futures, we were impressed by your vision and foresight that has seen the establishment of three environmentally friendly business parks, a national first, in the Precinct.

As proprietors of a small business in difficult times, we need to know that there is in place a long term plan for the Precinct to ensure that the growth of the last decade will be sustainable into the future. In this respect, we are encouraged by the amendments put forward in the 2009 draft Airport Masterplan, and in particular by the response of the Airport Group to concerns expressed by community groups about noise abatement and traffic. The new road system past the Airport, co-funded by your company, is a prime example of your commitment to Canberra's future. The drive on the part of your company to make Canberra the second airport for Sydney, a national freight hub, and the vision of a very fast train are further examples of why we made the decision to commit to running a small business in the Precinct.

We thank you for this opportunity and trust you will forward our comments, as both small business proprietors and young parents, to the Minister for his consideration.

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