

23 April 2009

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Dear Stephen,

Canberra Airport 2009 Preliminary Draft Master Plan

Congratulations on the launch of your 2009 Preliminary Draft Master Plan, a most comprehensive and detailed analysis of your future direction. When surrounded by predominantly short term self interest within a lot of organisations it is refreshing to see one that takes the longer view and strives to meet the needs and concerns of the wider community.

Your plan covers a lot of territory but I would like to respond to just a few of the issues that have struck a chord with me and my organisation.

- The strategic importance of the airport to the city of Canberra and the region cannot be overstated. It is essential that you plan to meet the needs of the region for both passenger travel and freight handling. As your plan suggests you cannot afford to stand still.
- A significant factor in this strategic position is location and ease of access. You are currently working with the ACT Government toward improvements to the existing road network with a view to improving traffic flow to and from the airport as well as around it. For the future we see the construction of the Majura Parkway, a true gateway to the city and its transport hub, as the next stage in this process. We think this enhancement of the ACT's infrastructure is a vital part of your plan and we are proud to have been a part of it.
- The notion of Canberra as a second airport for Sydney has a great deal of merit especially if Canberra is able to remain free of curfew. We are also very much in favour of a VFT link to Sydney as part of this strategy. Previous shelving of this project was a lost opportunity in our view. I have recently travelled on similar trains in Europe and I think that the possibilities opened up both for the airport, the city and others along the route are enormous. In a time of significant fiscal stimulation on infrastructure works this project would be truly visionary.
- The planned continuation of the development of office space and associated facilities in the airport precincts of Brindabella, Majura and Fairbairn is appropriate and necessary. It provides substance around the transport activities suited to those most reliant on those activities. In addition the renaissance of the Fairbairn precinct is long overdue.

- Underpinning a lot of your plans is the necessity for the airport to remain curfew free. To this end the management of noise issues is very important. Recent attempts to develop residential land directly under the flight path is in no-one's interest. The benefits of a significant transport facility to the regional community surely should outweigh the need for a poorly sited development, especially when so many other options are available.

I hope these comments are of some assistance in the formulation of your final plans. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully
Huon Management Services Pty Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Reilly', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Reilly
Director