

11 MAY 2009

6 May 2009

Mr Stephen Byron  
Managing Director  
Canberra International Airport  
2 Brindabella Circuit  
Brindabella Business Park ACT 2609

Dear Stephen

**TIC Submission to Canberra Airport 2009 Preliminary Draft Master Plan**

I write on behalf of the board and members of the Tourism Industry Council (ACT and Region) (TIC) in support of the 2009 Canberra Airport Preliminary Draft Master Plan.

TIC applauds the ongoing development of Canberra Airport and the growth of flights. Direct air services to Canberra from a range of regional, domestic and international destinations are crucial to the tourism industry in Canberra and the surrounding region, an industry that was assessed by the Sustainable Tourism research Centre as delivering in excess of \$1.3 billion in direct and indirect benefits to the ACT economy. New services to Canberra by Virgin Blue and Tiger Airways, adding to the significant range of services operated by Qantas are welcome and TIC looks forward to further announcements on new destinations in the future. As Canberra doesn't currently have any regular direct international flights, the commencement of such flights in particular would provide very substantial new opportunities and jobs to the local tourism industry.

TIC strongly supports a High Speed Train link from Canberra to Sydney, further boosting tourism and also creating additional opportunities for the Airport to serve the needs of travellers to and from Sydney.

TIC also looks forward to the completion of Canberra Airport's new terminal building which will not only make travel easier and more comfortable for regular users of the Airport but also create a fantastic first impression for visitors, both domestic and international, arriving into Canberra.



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**Tourism Industry Council**  
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Whilst the current flight paths to and from Canberra Airport remain largely free from residential development, TIC is greatly concerned by plans for residential development under airport flight paths that might put at risk the growth of air services to Canberra, as well as impacting on the Canberra and region community as a whole through "noise sharing". Many international flights and some domestic flights around Australia operate in the late evening or early morning, and any curfew or other restriction on the Airport may mean such flights would not eventuate. For example, TIC understands that the current highly successful direct Gold Coast-Canberra flight would not be able to operate if Canberra Airport was curfew-constrained. TIC strongly supports Canberra Airport remaining curfew-free.

TIC also supports the Master Plan's proposal for overnight freight services, as TIC believes such services will provide significant economic stimulus to the region. The availability of just-in-time freight services is also critical for the tourism industry as a whole.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to clarify any issues in this letter of submission.

Yours sincerely

Joseph Griffiths  
Chairman and Executive Director  
Tourism Industry Council ACT and Region

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