

MEDIA ALERT

14 November 2010

NEW TERMINAL OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The first stage of Canberra Airport's \$350 million upgrade became operational today.

Managing Director of Canberra Airport, Stephen Byron said the transition from old terminal to new had gone smoothly and the positive feedback from passengers was overwhelming.

"Travellers have been impressed with the scale and design of the facility," Mr Byron said.

"Our first flight left on time and arrivals and departures since have come and gone without incident. That's not surprising given the amount of planning and preparation that has gone into today.

"To build the new terminal and keep the existing facility fully operational has been a challenging task and one that caused a number of changes to the vehicle and pedestrian access. There will be a period where those used to coming to the old terminal are still finding their way, but we couldn't be happier with our first few hours in operation."

A team of Canberra Airport staff have been on the ground since 4am to assist travellers with directions and information.

"With the promise of something better to come, Canberra travellers have adapted to the changing conditions around the airport as the building has progressed over the past 19 months. Today they can see the start of the vision and in two years the process will be complete."

Canberra Airport is used currently by 3.25 million passengers a year which is expected to more than double over the next two decades.

The new terminal covers 26,000m² of floor space and includes one of the largest Qantas Club Lounges in Australia. Passengers from Qantas, Virgin Blue, Tiger Airways and Brindabella Airlines will all use the new check in and baggage facilities.

"We are particularly proud of the green credentials of this building. For example, using tri-generation technology reduces our carbon emissions by 75%, we have a 600 megalitre rainwater tank and we use grey and black water recycling.

"With the opening of the new terminal today, Canberra is well on the way to having a state-of-the-art airport that will rival any terminal of its size in the world," Mr Byron said.

Media contact: Jane Seaborn - 0414 829 282