

Optimising Use of Other Existing Airports in the Sydney Region

Airport sites are scarce and are difficult to replace or supplement. It is important that planning for each of the other existing airports, and the areas around them, should allow aviation activities to develop to the full practical potential of the sites, having regard to the physical capacity of each site and to the impacts on nearby communities.

The Australian and NSW governments need to urgently develop and agree policy and planning approaches, including airport noise amenity criteria, to guide development around airports particularly for Greenfield sites. It is critical to prevent inappropriate development within flight corridors which restrict the opportunities for future airport development.

Canberra Airport

Canberra Airport is an important airport with infrastructure capable of handling the full range of services, but is not located close enough to the Sydney market to take the role of Sydney's second RPT airport. It will serve a growing RPT market in southern NSW and will provide an additional option for a small proportion of Sydney passengers who are prepared to travel the extra distance.

Canberra Airport is the only curfew-free airport within reach of Sydney and provides the potential for night-time services which cannot be accommodated in Sydney, in particular international LCC services and overnight freight services. It is important that Canberra's 24 hour unrestricted curfew-free status be protected.

Recommendation 10

The Steering Committee recommends that the Australian, ACT and NSW governments work together to ensure that Canberra Airport is protected from encroaching noise-sensitive urban development which would be incompatible with 24-hour jet aircraft operations and could restrict the expansion of the airport over time into a significant domestic and international aviation centre for both passenger and freight services for south-eastern Australia.

- In particular, the current undeveloped approach and departure corridors to the north and south of the airport should be protected (as appropriate) from residential or other noise-sensitive development.
- The Australian, ACT and NSW governments should undertake a joint strategic planning study of these and other areas potentially affected by aircraft noise to ensure that appropriate zoning and infrastructure planning is put in place to avoid creating problems for the future.
- Measures to protect the future growth at Canberra Airport should be put in place quickly, recognising that there is already pressure for approval of greenfield residential developments in the southern corridor.
- The Committee considers that greenfield residential development in currently undeveloped approach and departure corridors, are not appropriate, having regard to the expected growth of operations at the airport and its role as an overnight hub for jet freight, noting the particular sensitivity of night-time noise. // *