

28 August 2009

Minister Albanese Approves 2009 Canberra Airport Master Plan

Canberra Airport's 2009 Master Plan, the twenty year vision for Canberra Airport, was given formal approval by the Federal Government today. The Master Plan outlines a number of major proposals including a new terminal and the development of a freight hub over time.

Canberra Airport Managing Director, Mr Stephen Byron, said the decision by Federal Transport Minister, Anthony Albanese, to endorse the Master Plan was a vote of confidence in the ongoing growth and development of Canberra Airport and the critical role it plays in driving regional growth and jobs.

"With the approval of the Master Plan, we now have the certainty that is critical to us to maintain our continuing financial investment in the Airport and deliver jobs for the Canberra and Queanbeyan region. We look forward to completing the new terminal, and working with the ACT Government to finish the roads around the Airport, so that we can deliver the best possible passenger experience for the people of Canberra."

There was unprecedented interest in the Master Plan with 230 submissions from the community, business, government and industry. Mr Byron noted:

"The number of submissions demonstrates a high level of community interest in the development of the Airport and its role as a national gateway. But we appreciate that we have a responsibility to develop the Airport in a sustainable and responsible manner and as such we commit to undertake close consultation with all Government and community stakeholders. In particular, we welcome the Airservices Australia review proposed by the Commonwealth to further protect the community from aircraft noise."

However, Mr Byron said the future held a number of challenges for the Airport and the approval of the Master Plan was really just the starting point for the next 20 years.

"The approval of Master Plan is just the start – the real work starts now and we have to make sure that we deliver on the undertakings that we have given the community. This includes maintaining our total opposition to plans by the Queanbeyan City Council and NSW Government to build homes under the airport's flight paths.

It has never made sense, and still doesn't make sense, to build under flight paths."

For more information contact Michelle Knighton 02 6275 2267