

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO: 12 NOON, FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2009

Delays end as new roads open at Canberra Airport

Travel times for more than 30,000 drivers each weekday have been slashed with the opening of two extra lanes on Pialligo Avenue and improved access to Canberra Airport.

NRMA Director, Alan Evans, and Canberra Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, today celebrated the opening of the duplication of Pialligo Avenue between Beltana Road and Brindabella Circuit.

"The completion of this project marks a key milestone in the development of a true freeway system linking the Airport, the parliamentary triangle and Canberra CBD," Mr Byron said.

"We appreciate the patience shown by Canberra and Queanbeyan motorists over the past year, and know that the major reduction in travel time for local drivers is greatly welcomed.

"Under the Partnership Agreement between the Airport and the ACT Government, Canberra Airport has contributed \$8.0 million of the \$15.5 million cost of this upgrade including project managing the entire works. As part of the agreement, we will now be giving the completed infrastructure back to the ACT community as a public road," Mr Byron said.

Mr Evans said: "This is a great example of a public-private partnership and shows innovation on the part of Canberra Airport who are prepared to play a role in addressing the traffic issues around the airport, and to serve their customers better.

"This upgrade is a significant improvement for the people who use Canberra Airport and those who travel between Queanbeyan and Canberra."

"In the future Canberra will become more and more an important hub for both passengers and freight and this project demonstrates the sort of long term planning needed in both land use and infrastructure."

The Canberra Airport works were completed two months ahead of schedule (commencing in late April 2008) by local company Woden Contractors.

The remaining roadworks currently being undertaken by the ACT Government are expected to be completed in the second half of 2009.

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KEY FACTS:

- Duplication of 1.3 kilometre section of Pialligo Avenue between intersections of Beltana Road and Brindabella Circuit;
- Four lanes - two in each direction, increasing to a total of eight lanes wide at the intersection with the Airport
- Cost \$15.5 million - \$8 million funded by Canberra Airport (including \$1.1 million project management) and \$7.5 million funded by ACT Government
- First major road built and funded within the Territory in a joint venture/partnership arrangement between the ACT Government and a private sector company
- Built by Canberra Airport using local company Woden Contractors
- 120 jobs over the life of the project
- 58 bridge planks, 17.4 metres long each weighing 14 tonnes used as part of the interchange at the new Airport entrance
- 20,000 tonnes of asphalt laid
- More than 75,000 cubic metres of earth used
- 80,000 drought resistant plants used in landscaping
- Accommodates more than 30,000 cars each weekday including 9,500 daily passengers to and from the Terminal and 5,000 workers at Brindabella Business Park

AIRPORT ROADS UPGRADE

