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**Canberra Airport's role as "Sydney's Second Airport"**

**Statement by Stephen Byron, Managing Director**

Canberra Airport welcomes the comments made by NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell about its ability to provide aviation capacity for the Sydney region.

However, Canberra Airport does not expect to be formally named as a "Second Sydney Airport" at any time in the near future.

Given existing residents' concerns about aircraft noise it is highly unlikely that any new second Sydney airport will ultimately be constructed.

This scenario, coupled with Transport and Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese unequivocally ruling out lifting the curfew at Sydney's Kingsford-Smith Airport, will strengthen Canberra Airport's role in managing overflow from Sydney as it continues to grow.

As the only curfew-free 747-capable airport in NSW, Canberra will play an increasingly critical strategic role in Australia's national infrastructure, particularly where overnight freight is concerned.

High speed rail would complete this picture and link people, businesses and services down the east coast of Australia including the national capital – creating a major economic corridor of investment, industry and innovation.

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