

11 April 2013

High Speed Rail to Canberra Welcome - the sooner the better

The release today of the Commonwealth Government's long-awaited second stage report into High Speed Rail is welcomed by Canberra Airport.

"Canberra Airport has been, and continues to be a vociferous advocate of High Speed Rail for Australia's eastern seaboard," said Managing Director Stephen Byron.

"Overall, the HSR Report is a good win for Canberra because it makes it very clear that Sydney to Canberra is Stage 1 – that is fantastic considering the study started with the pre-conceived strategy that Newcastle to Sydney would come first. Well done to the ACT Government, the Canberra Business Council and others for achieving this.

"Clearly, the key objective now is making HSR happen and I have today written to the Chief Minister to reaffirm our commitment to working with the ACT Government to achieve that.

"The station location is secondary for all 430,000 of us in the Canberra/Queanbeyan region – so we support Civic as the location if it gets us HSR.

"We note the report recommends Canberra Airport as the first alternative if Civic is unable to support the parking infrastructure needed for the station.

"Canberra Airport is a reasonable fallback option if Civic either cannot work or the commercial proponents prefer the patronage uplift out of an Airport Station.

"For the record, for the report to say that an HSR station would affect airport infrastructure is plain wrong and to say that construction would be difficult is also erroneous.

"We remain committed to working positively together to achieve the economic and social benefits that will accrue to the Capital Region from HSR, the sooner the better," Mr Byron said.

Media inquiries: Jane Seaborn 0414 829 282