

28 May 2013

Canberra Airport Takes Sydney Flights...Again

Heavy fog in Sydney this morning saw eight flights diverted to Canberra Airport including a Qantas Boeing 747-400 international flight from Hong Kong.

Three other international flights from New Zealand and four domestic flights bound for Sydney also diverted to Canberra when fog settled over the harbour city early this morning.

The flights landed in Canberra between 0600 and 1000. Some required refuelling before departing for Sydney when fog cleared around midday. Some passengers were offloaded onto buses for Sydney and some taken to the Canberra Airport terminal to be placed on other flights. All flights with remaining passengers had departed for Sydney by 1pm.

A female passenger on a flight diverted from New Zealand was taken to Canberra hospital by ambulance after going into labour.

“Today’s events are a clear demonstration of Canberra Airport’s important role as a backstop for Kingsford-Smith Airport,” Canberra Airport Managing Director Stephen Byron said.

“Canberra Airport is a vital part of the national transport infrastructure with airlines nominating our airport as their preferred destination over Brisbane and Melbourne if they cannot get into Sydney for any reason, such as the curfew there or the sort of weather that occurred today.

“Canberra is the only 747-capable airport between Brisbane and Sydney and either of those ports would have caused a much more dramatic and disruptive diversion for passengers.

“There is no better demonstration of Canberra Airport’s capability than the accommodation of and management of today’s additional air traffic.”

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