

15 April 2014

Badgery's Creek Announcement

Statement by Stephen Byron, Managing Director, Canberra Airport

Canberra Airport welcomes today's announcement by the Federal Government to locate a second airport for Sydney at Badgery's Creek.

The decision is long overdue, Badgery's Creek is the best site option for a second Sydney airport and it needs to be built sooner rather than later.

We acknowledge and applaud the Government's recognition of the current and increasing importance of aviation to the national economy.

The Prime Minister today indicated the Badgery's Creek airport would not become operational for more than a decade.

We urge the Government to free up the shackles on existing aviation infrastructure to enable greater productivity using existing assets.

In particular, we believe travellers ought to be able to fly from the National Capital to Asia and the United States on any carrier, Australian or foreign, that elects to fly those routes. Currently, they cannot.

In addition, there are greater efficiencies that could be achieved at Sydney's existing airport, Kingsford Smith through: increasing the number of permitted movements per hour; synchronising the Regulations with the Act to increase movements in the 'shoulder' periods around the curfew; and providing operational flexibility in the event of weather disruptions.

It makes no sense to announce new infrastructure that won't come on line until mid next decade whilst keeping in place red tape that restricts existing infrastructure.

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