

**29 November 2016**

**ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE – JUST A HOP AWAY FROM CANBERRA**

Canberra Airport is absolutely delighted that Qatar Airways has committed to a new Doha to Canberra service next year and in 2018.

Canberra Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, said Canberra would be Qatar Airways' fifth destination in Australia.

"We can't think of a more suitable addition than the national capital", Mr Byron said.

"Currently, Qatar flies into Sydney, Perth, Melbourne and Adelaide, and we're expecting that the Canberra flight will arrive in the late evening to take advantage of our curfew free status".

"The fact that we don't have a curfew means that there is enormous flexibility in airline planning. We also do not have bilateral restrictions on operating out of Canberra Airport, which makes it easier for international airlines to fly here".

"We have been talking to a range of different airlines, and always hoped that other airlines would follow Singapore Airlines, which has been operating highly successfully since September".

"The specific details of exact flight times will be finalised with Qatar Airways in due course. We're especially pleased that Canberra has been announced as a new destination in the same breath as Las Vegas, Dublin, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago".

"Qatar Airways already serves more than 150 destinations around the world, with some of the youngest most technologically advanced fleet of Boeing 777s, Dreamliner and Airbus aircraft".

"This will mean that people in Canberra and the surrounding district will have direct access to Asia through Singapore Airlines, and to the Middle East and Europe through Qatar".

"It also means that travellers from all over the world will have the opportunity to enjoy the numerous attractions that Canberra and the surrounding district has to offer", Mr Byron said.

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