

24 June 2009

Canberra Airport Draft Master Plan

Canberra Airport has submitted its final draft 2009 Master Plan to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for assessment, along with a detailed consultation report.

The draft Master Plan takes into account the 233 submissions received from Government, the aviation industry, local business and the community and details Canberra Airport's vision for the airport over the next 20 years. This vision contemplates significant infrastructure projects, and economic and jobs growth in a manner consistent with views of the wider community.

“We were delighted to receive this level of interest in our Master Plan from local businesses and the community”, Managing Director Stephen Byron said.

“We have carefully considered the issues raised in each and every one of the submissions and we believe that the result is the most comprehensive Master Plan ever released by Canberra Airport.”

64 submissions from local Canberra and region businesses supported the Airport and the economic and jobs growth the Airport has delivered for the region, with a further 30 submissions coming from a range of Government, the aviation industry, Business/Industry Associations, Tourism Groups. There were also 139 submissions from other members of the community and community organisations.

“The clear message from the consultation phase of the Master Plan from members of the community is that living adjacent to the flight paths (even outside the High Noise Corridor and all noise contours) is a concern to some residents based on current noise levels and frequency of flights.” Stephen Byron said.

The implications of the public consultation are clear:

- The Noise Abatement Areas must be protected, strengthened and enlarged to cover the remainder of Gungahlin and possible future residential development at Googong New Town; and
- The flight paths, and hence aircraft noise, must be kept within the High Noise Corridor and away from existing homes.

“Through this Master Plan process it has become clear to us that some members of our community have serious concerns today about aircraft noise levels far quieter than that experienced at Tralee and Environa. Given this, and the reality that the Airport will grow, common sense dictates that the building of homes under the flight paths at Tralee and Environa should never happen”, Stephen Byron said.

Mr Byron said that the Commonwealth's position is clear: that it is necessary to protect corridors under flight paths. It is therefore time for the NSW Premier to stand up and state once and for all what he thought about developing under flight paths.

"The NSW Premier needs to step in now, listen to the concerns of the regional community, stop this development, and let the people of NSW know that he does not support building flights paths. It really is that simple", Stephen Byron said.

Canberra Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, is available to provide comment.

He can be contacted on:

0411 222 789

02 6275 2267