

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO: 2.45pm, TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2009

Infrastructure and jobs now for Australia's future

More than a third of a billion dollars will be invested and more than 1000 jobs created through developments at Canberra International Airport during the next three years.

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese, Canberra Airport Chairman, Terry Snow and Canberra Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, today celebrated the launch of the Southern Concourse Terminal – the first stage of the “AirVolution” vision.

“Six months ago, as a result of the uncertainty caused by the Global Financial Crisis, this project was dead. Now, thanks to a number of factors including the Federal Government’s bank guarantee and 30% Investment Allowance, we are now able to move forward with confidence,” Mr Byron said.

“This means an investment of \$350 million in Canberra Airport’s “AirVolution” which will see world-leading new aviation facilities and create 1350 jobs.

“And this infrastructure will deliver an economic boost into the future, driving growth in the tourism and transport economies, not only in the Canberra Region but throughout Australia as we come online with full international capabilities including immigration and customs by the end of 2012,” Mr Byron said.

Mr Byron said by the middle of next year, the things that have annoyed travellers about Canberra Airport would be gone.

“The long exposed walk to the carpark will be gone. Instead there will be a four-storey carpark with completely covered access to the terminal and no roads to cross allowing passengers to safely and swiftly move to and from their flights.

“The long taxi queues on a windswept footpath will be a thing of the past with Australia’s first fully enclosed taxi rank which will feature television screens and other amenities.

“Whether you live in Canberra or whether you are a visitor, the focus of this new airport is about the experience of our passengers and this new terminal will be the best in Australia and for its size probably the best in the world,” Mr Byron said.

The new carpark, apron hardstand to park more jets and the Southern Concourse Terminal will be completed by the middle of 2010. The remaining works including a new Western Concourse Terminal will be completed in 2012 subject to planning and finance approvals.

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Media Inquiries: Jane Seaborn 0414 829 282

'AirVolution' – Key Facts

- The AirVolution represents an investment of \$350 million by Canberra Airport in new aviation facilities
- 3 million passengers a year use Canberra Airport. Forecast growth of 4.2% pa will see this rise to 7.2 million by 2029
- To accommodate current and future demand, Canberra Airport is embarking upon a series of key aviation infrastructure projects, collectively termed the Airport's "AirVolution"
- The AirVolution comprises the following projects:
 - New Airport Gateway Road Intersection (grade-separated) and Duplication – complete and open;
 - 3 new jet aircraft parking positions – under construction;
 - 2 Structured Car Parks (1200 undercover spaces each) – the first is under construction;
 - A New Southern Concourse Terminal – launched today; and
 - A Western Concourse Terminal – planned to commence late 2010 (subject to various approvals including finance)
- Airport construction will drive more than 350 jobs on-site, with a further 1000 off-site in the supply chain. Once complete, there will be an additional 300 jobs associated with ongoing operation of the Airport.
- The Airport is determined to see that these employment benefits are primarily local. Of the more than 100 suppliers, 80% are expected to be from the local Canberra-Queanbeyan region.
- Together, the AirVolution Projects will deliver:
 - International capability with dedicated customs, immigration and quarantine facilities
 - More than double the number of check-in counters (from 17 to 44)
 - A tripling of baggage capacity
 - A quadrupling of Airline Club Lounge areas
 - A two storey roadside drop off and pick up system - departures on the upper level and arrivals on the lower level
 - An indoor taxi rank waiting area – a first for an Australian airport
 - The greenest, most carbon friendly terminal in Australia
- The Southern Concourse Terminal will incorporate Trigeration Technology, which will reduce the building's carbon emissions by 75% compared to the existing facility. Trigeration generates electricity on site from gas and captures the waste heat to air-condition and heat the building.
- Other environmental initiatives include a 600,000 litre tank to capture all rainwater, recycled water for toilets and air-conditioning, solar utilisation, waste recycling, fuel reduction initiatives and low energy fittings.

