

**EMBARGO: Midnight 17 October 2011**

**12,000 jobs and more than \$1 billion flowing to the region from Canberra Airport**

Canberra Airport drives more than seven per cent of the ACT's economic activities, an economic impact study has found.

The study by economic consulting firm ACIL Tasman was commissioned by Canberra Airport to more precisely determine the economic benefits of the airport to the region.

ACIL Tasman estimates that total employment generated or enabled by Canberra Airport is 12,496 jobs and a \$1.34 billion contribution to the Gross Regional Product.

However, the study goes on to note that many of the benefits of the Airport are far too pervasive to quantify accurately – with the Report concluding that the impact of Canberra Airport on the wider region, while not precisely known, is much larger than first seems.

“It is well known that aviation is a driver of economic growth as well as a beneficiary of it, but we wanted to put that into a Canberra region context,” Canberra Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron said.

“We also wanted to look at what the economic impacts would be for the life of our Commonwealth-approved Master Plan over the next two decades.”

The study also:

- stated that in 2030, assuming a medium growth scenario, total activities associated with the Airport are expected to generate employment of over 21,000 jobs with the total value added to the local economy being estimated \$2.42 billion per annum. If a high growth scenario is assumed it is estimated there will be 23,600 jobs in 2030 with a total value of \$2.63 billion per annum to the local economy.
- noted that Canberra Airport was curfew-free and that the Commonwealth Government had identified the importance of maintaining a network of curfew-free airports, including Canberra Airport, on north-south and east-west axes to allow for the ongoing successful operation of overnight airfreight and other overnight aircraft operations.
- highlighted the role that Canberra Airport could play in providing additional aviation capacity – for passengers and freight – for the Sydney region.
- expected the development of a freight hub and international freight services at Canberra Airport to generate a cumulative increase in real economic output for Canberra and the surrounding region (the ACT plus Queanbeyan) between 2011 and 2030 of \$646 million in 2010 dollars.

However, the report stated: “The building of homes directly under flight paths in Canberra Airport’s High Noise Corridor (including at Tralee and Environa) could lead to an overnight curfew being imposed on the airport. That would severely limit the Airport’s capacity to service international flights, threaten existing services such as the Perth and Gold Coast, slow tourism growth, reduce employment growth and undermine the wider catalytic benefits of the airport.”

More than 3.25 million passengers travelled in and out of Canberra Airport in 2010-11.

The study found Canberra Airport was a major enabler of tourism in the region with more than one quarter of the 3.2 million domestic visitors annually arriving by air.

**Media inquiries: Jane Seaborn 0414 829 282**