

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO: 9:30AM, TUESDAY 2 AUGUST 2011

Laying the foundation for Canberra's new gateway

The next stage of Canberra Airport's \$420 million infrastructure investment has been officially launched by ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher.

With more than 1,200 jobs being created during the four year Canberra Airport "AirVolution" project, the commencement of the next stage is an important boost to the local economy.

The Chief Minister joined Canberra Airport Chairman, Terry Snow and Canberra Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, to lay the foundation stone for the construction of the Western Concourse Terminal:

"In November last year we opened the Southern Concourse Terminal and travellers in and out of Canberra have been enjoying the benefits, but that new facility is only the first part of the Canberra Airport AirVolution. Since its opening we have focused on the next stage of the AirVolution – the old Qantas terminal has been removed, services have been relocated, and plans finalised" Mr Byron said.

"We are now in the position to launch the new Western Concourse Terminal - this new concourse will mirror the Southern Concourse Terminal with the two terminals being joined by a spectacular glass atrium.

"The focus is all on the passenger with new and additional airline lounges, new aerobridges, a doubling of the passenger screening area, more check-in counters, greater amenities and retail offerings, and with another four-storey car park providing completely covered access to the new terminals." This next stage also includes Australia's first fully enclosed taxi rank featuring television screens and other services.

"This infrastructure will deliver an important economic boost to the Canberra region, continuing to help drive growth in the construction, tourism and transport economies. Whether you live in Canberra or whether you are a visitor, the focus of this new airport is the passenger experience – we want to try to deliver the best small airport in the world" Mr Byron said.

The new undercover car park is due for completion in March next year and the Western Concourse Terminal and associated aviation infrastructure are expected to be completed in mid 2013 in time for the centenary of Canberra.

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WESTERN CONCOURSE TERMINAL FACT SHEET

- Together with the Southern Concourse Terminal, roads and apron upgrades, Canberra Airport is investing a total of \$420 million.
- Largest private infrastructure project in Canberra's history.
- Construction timeframe is 24 months, completion estimated mid 2013.
- Currently Canberra has 3.25 million passengers each year, the Western Concourse Terminal will provide capacity to meet the current and future demand on airport infrastructure.
- The project will continue to be delivered by a team of predominantly local suppliers and subcontractors, totalling more than 115 local businesses.
- The project will provide employment for a construction workforce of 1,200, with continuing employment for 300 permanent, on-site workers.
- In addition to the Western Concourse Terminal, the Airport has commenced construction on a further 1,200 undercover car spaces, due for completion in March next year. This will increase total car parking capacity by over 50%.

The Western Concourse Terminal will deliver:

- 30,000m² building area;
- 5 additional aerobridges;
- New and additional airline club lounges;
- Double the current baggage-handling capacity;
- An indoor taxi queuing area;
- New food and beverage and retail stores;
- A doubling of the passenger screening area;
- 12 additional check-in counters; and
- Environmental initiatives equivalent to a 5-star green building, including tri-generation energy plant, water recycling and solar utilisation.



