



Admiring 'The Bathers', Terry Snow, Annabelle Pegrum and Ante Dabro



Artist's impression of Living City

SNOW URGES GOVERNMENT TO THINK AGAIN

Businessman and 'Living City' proponent, Terry Snow, has urged the ACT Government to reconsider its decision not to make an immediate start revitalizing Civic.

The Government's decision to stall the project until 2010 was a disappointing error of judgment, he said. So too, was its decision not to establish a special Statutory Authority for the task of rebuilding the City.

Snow was responding to a Government decision not to proceed with the redevelopment of Civic because of the ACT Government's perception there was insufficient demand for office and residential accommodation.

"Unfortunately, this has all the hallmarks of a non-decision and that's very disappointing because I know the Chief Minister was an enthusiastic supporter of the idea," Snow said.

Ministers needed to understand that massive revitalization projects like rebuilding Civic did not happen overnight.

"They take time and detailed planning in order to gather momentum. They deserve the best engineering and planning brains in the country and they are not going to come to Canberra to sit on a committee, no matter how well intended and meaning it might be. Can we really afford to sit around in the lead up to the Centenary of our city in 2013 waiting for something to happen,?" Snow asked.

If the Government did not make a start now, Canberra faced the very real prospect of falling behind the rest of the country, he said.

"With the lowest commercial office vacancy rates in Australia, Canberra cannot afford to sit back for the next seven years waiting for some imaginary wave of demand to arrive. Start planning now, build quality because the demand is there and will continue to grow in the future. So too will the experienced work force that we so desperately need," Snow said.

widely and at a national level as being excellent," she said. "The architecture and landscape in the new development, has been given even further substance by being recognised for environmental leadership. But perhaps the most surprising leadership that this development has shown has been in the making of new public places that enrich our experience and give pleasure. Terry Snow and his team have made something here that is worthy of its national capital status."

Ms. Pegrum said she hoped Snow was aware of the continuity his commitment to fine public art demonstrates saying, that among the defining periods of Canberra's symbolic development, public art features strongly.

"Terry Snow and Ante Dabro deserve our congratulations for their vision and commitment – but they also deserve our thanks because such works celebrate who we are, inspire imagination and give sheer pleasure to us all – in this, the city that we love," Pegrum said.

Ante Dabro does not plan his sculptures in advance, choosing instead to let them evolve during the process of making.

He said "The Bathers' complement the high tech nature of the Business Park.

"They contrast sharply with the futuristic facades of the Park's buildings. The Bathers give them a human dimension and appeal," he said. Ante's works include the Australian Naval Memorial on Anzac parade, Canberra and the La Perouse Memorial in Paris.

THE BATHERS UNVEILED

"It is wonderful when the private sector demonstrate so powerfully the benefit of working hand in hand with artists to integrate art into the fabric of the built environments that they are making."

Annabelle Pegrum, Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority, was unveiling two important new sculptures in the Brindabella Business Park on Thursday December 15.

Crafted by Master sculptor, Ante Dabro, 'The Bathers' enjoy pride of place in a Japanese style garden positioned alongside both 8 and 10 Brindabella Circuits - the Park's internationally acclaimed green commercial office building.

Eight months in the making and surrounded by water, 'The Bathers' features two arresting female forms. Commissioned by Airport Executive Chairman, Terry Snow, they join Dabro's two other sculptures already in place in the Brindabella Business Park – 'Suzanne' and the 'Dancer' which was unveiled earlier in the year by Brian Kennedy, the former director of the National Gallery of Australia.

In a speech to about 300 guests and Park tenants, Ms Pegrum congratulated Terry Snow for his commitment to art throughout the Business Park.

"The development at the Airport today is recognised

Canberra International Airport Pty Ltd | ACN 080 361 548

2 Brindabella Business Park, ACT 2609

Telephone: 02 6275 2222 | Facsimile: 02 6275 2244

Editor: Ken Begg | Reporter: Sam Begg



Diverted from Sydney, this Emirates Boeing 777 makes a brief stop-over in the nation's capital. Photo courtesy of Jeff Gilbert

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READY FOR LIFT OFF

Canberra International Airport is moving to secure its position as a national and international gateway.

Managing Director, Stephen Byron, confirmed that the Airport would push ahead in March this year with plans to extend the main runway 450 metres to the south.

The runway extension was long overdue and, at a cost of around \$15 million, represented the Airport's biggest investment so far in aviation infrastructure, he said. The Federal Government signed off on the runway extension in November 2004.

"This is the first extension of the runway since 1973 and it will allow us to cope with the anticipated doubling of passenger numbers to more than 4 million by 2020. It will also finally position Canberra as a true national and international destination," Byron said.

The Airport was preparing a list of potential tenderers to construct the runway extension. Around 100-150 construction jobs will be generated by the project.

Canberra is the first privatised Airport to undertake a major runway extension.

Under the new proposals, which are consistent with the Airport's Master Plan:

- The main runway will be extended by 450 metres to

the south and include construction of a turning node to allow wide-bodied jets to better manoeuvre and a blast protection fence to prevent the effects of jet blasts on traffic on Pialligo Avenue, and

- Parallel taxiways to the north and south will be extended by around 1200 metres and 450 metres respectively to improve capacity and reduce delays.

"It has always been our intention to give the Airport international capabilities and we are now in a position to proceed with these works," Byron said.

He also confirmed that the Airport was exploring by way of public consultation the possibility of further extending the runway by an additional 150 metres to the south.

Canberra's main runway is the shortest of all Australian mainland capital cities. This meant that some wide-bodied aircraft were weight restricted on departure or had to refuel at other Australian airports.

"Extending the runway 450 metres will improve the performance of all aircraft departing Canberra, provide greater margins for safety and further reduce the very slight risk of runway overruns," Byron said.

It will further improve low visibility operations, which in turn will benefit the airlines and their customers. It will also deliver significant environmental dividends by reducing aircraft holding patterns and fuel burns.

"As the nation's capital city, it is crucial that we can adequately serve all types of aircraft. We are fully committed to the runway extension because we believe it is fundamental to the region's future as a global destination and an engine room for economic growth and jobs," Byron said.



Brand Depot construction site

BRAND DEPOT – AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Construction work on Canberra's factory outlet centre, Brand Depot, was well ahead of schedule according to the Executive Chairman of Canberra International Airport, Terry Snow.

"We are absolutely committed to this venture," he said. "Brand Depot will be Canberra's first and best outlet centre and it opens for business in July this year."

Access roads and roundabouts leading to the precinct were already built and construction of the car parks would be complete by May. The centre's structural steel framework was more than fifty percent complete. Its slab was being poured and concrete walls were about to be installed. Shop fitouts would be built by Brand Depot soon after.

"We are completely focussed on the task ahead and we are well ahead of schedule and under budget," Snow said. Brand Depot was a shopping phenomenon that is entirely new to Canberra. It will offer national and international brand names at prices 30 to 70% below normal retail. "This niche form of retailing is highly successful because it fills a consumer gap for low cost goods," he said.

Snow reaffirmed his commitment to Brand Depot during a meeting with senior managers and centre operators, Wynn Tresidder. "Wynn Tresidder is already in serious negotiations with around 40 major retailers in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane who have expressed strong interest in Brand Depot. "The centre has had so much interest that Brand Depot have asked us for a further extension to their building, which is currently being considered," he added.

Located on Airport land, the \$9.5 million centre will accommodate about 70 shops and provide free field on-grade parking for more than 1000 cars. More than 2.5 million people passed through Canberra International Airport every year. In addition, around 70,000 cars drove in and around the Airport every working week

"This is why airports have proved to be ideal locations for outlet centres," Snow said. "They are highly visible



and accessible and we will exploit that advantage to the maximum benefit of both retailers and consumers," Snow said.

No other sites in Canberra could offer such location or competitive rent structure, let alone generous car parking space. "Our interstate competitors paid a vastly inflated price for a site in Fyshwick that offers none of our site's natural benefits. There was intense competition to operate the Canberra Airport site from Austexx/DFO and other operators, but we decided to operate it ourselves because of its natural competitive advantage."

Terry Snow has been intimately involved with retail management throughout his career, managing a retail commercial property portfolio worth \$350 million that included the Greenwood development at North Sydney's Optus Centre.

Brand Depot will generate around 600 local jobs and inject more than \$10 million in wages annually into the regional economy.



SNOW WING

The Snow Foundation has met the cost of building a new palliative care wing at Brindabella Gardens, an aged care nursing home and hostel in Curtin.

Speaking at the opening last December, Airport Executive Chairman and trustee, Terry Snow, said the wing was dedicated to the love, care and dedication of the staff at Brindabella Gardens who work tirelessly to provide senior citizens with dignity and comfort in the later stages of their lives.

"I was delighted to build this facility," he said. "Both my parents finished their days here. I have been greatly indebted to the professionalism and care shown by the staff towards my parents and I asked them what I could do to help."

The Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Bishop George Browning formally opened the new wing and paid tribute to the ongoing generosity of the Snow Foundation.

With a need to provide palliative care a priority, Snow agreed to build two bright rooms with private courtyards and water features. The quiet rooms are designed to be a comfortable place where family and relatives can gather to be with their loved ones in their final days.

In 1990, Terry and brother George established the Snow Foundation and endowed it with a donation of \$1 million and a further \$1.5 million since 1997. The foundation is a charitable body that provides a lasting legacy to the community for the long term benefit and welfare of the disadvantaged.

The Foundation has helped with the employment of part-time medical specialists and the purchase of vital medical supplies and equipment; wheelchairs for the disabled; wigs for the Cancer Council; circus stilts to help children with balance and movement; art supplies for the Painting with Parkinson's Program; kitchen utensils for the blind; sleep monitors, sofas, bobcats and bikes.

George and Terry Snow, Susan Thompson and Bishop George Browning at the launch of the palliative care wing



Emergency Services Commissioner, Peter Dunn, at the Fairbairn launch

EMERGENCY SERVICES MOVES TO FAIRBAIRN

Canberra International Airport has welcomed the decision of ACT Emergency Services to establish their new headquarters and training facility at Fairbairn.

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, said the former RAAF base was a perfect location for Emergency Services. "The new base is ideally located at the Airport. If an emergency were to occur in the ACT, interstate emergency personnel could fly directly into Canberra and be immediately deployed," he said.

Emergency Services Minister, John Hargreaves, said the Airport site was cheaper and better than the original site at Hume. "Moving to the Airport will save ACT taxpayers millions of dollars," he said.

This was because the ACT Government would not have to bear the capital costs of building the new facility and would only have the ongoing payment of rent. The Airport site also had the benefit of being immediately available. Staff had already started to move to the Airport.

Emergency Services Commissioner, Peter Dunn, said the Airport location would enable the authority to merge its land and air operations onto one site.

"We will also be closer to the Australian Federal Police who have a training complex at Majura and this will enable us to work closely together," he said.

By 2007, the Emergency Services Authority would have a new state-of-the-art building to accommodate a communications centre, an emergency coordination centre and an information centre.

An outdoor "hot" training centre would also be built to allow fire fighters, ambulance officers and SES volunteers to practice.

The Authority would use existing buildings at Fairbairn to house a simulation training centre, a media centre, workshops and an air support operations centre, with hangar.



PASSENGER NUMBERS SOAR

Record passenger numbers accessed Canberra International Airport during the three months ended December last year. 2005 also saw the Airport break 2.5 million passengers for the first time.

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, said the results, given the high cost of fuel, were particularly pleasing and revealed growing confidence in the National Capital as a destination for business and leisure travellers.



Crowded Canberra terminal near capacity

October broke all records with 224,941 passengers passing through the Airport - an increase of 6.1% when compared with the same month in 2004. Virgin Blue surpassed 60,000 passenger movements for the month, Qantas rose 7.3% and Brindabella Airlines 67.1%.

Passenger movements in November totalled 223,033 - the third strongest month for 2005 - eclipsing the previous November tally by 5.9%.

During December 201,778 passengers accessed the terminal - a 3.3% increase over the same month in 2004. But, significantly, the December passenger numbers broke 200,000 for the first time.

"The airlines are to be congratulated for their commitment to the region," Byron said.

Qantas will introduce a mid afternoon service to Brisbane on April 2. Using its new Dash 8 aircraft,

the new service will add a further 1,000 seats a week to this important service.

Virgin Blue has also flagged that it will add an additional lunch time flight to Melbourne.

"This vote of confidence by the airlines is further evidence of the ACT's appeal and highlights the success of Canberra Tourism's 'See yourself in Canberra' campaign," Byron said. "These additional services as well as the introduction of Ozjet later this year may well see passenger movements edge close to three million a year and this is excellent news for our industry."

Byron also highlighted that aviation is an inherently risky business and just as airlines can put on capacity, they can quickly withdraw it.

