

# Airport acts to Preserve Town Water

May 10: Canberra International Airport is set to become the first Airport in Australia to recycle its waste water.

Airport Executive Director, Mr Tom Snow, said the decision to recycle waste water was an important environmental initiative that will significantly reduce the Airport's use of fresh town water and, as a result, help preserve the ACT's scarce water supplies.

The environmental savings are significant. Around 100,000 litres of water, the equivalent of two 50m Olympic sized swimming pools, will be recycled across the Airport every day," Mr Snow said. "This means that water consumption in Airport buildings will drop from 15 to 20 litres per person per day to 5 litres per person per day."

Recycled water will be re-used in cooling towers, which are major consumers of water as well as toilet flushing and for irrigation. It will not be used for drinking. The Airport will continue to draw on town water for drinking and showering. "Recycling our waste water means the Airport and its Business Park will be using approximately one quarter the supply of fresh town water of commercial buildings of a similar size," he said.

Launching the project, ACT Chief Minister, Mr Jon Stanhope, said the Airport was setting another admirable example to the corporate world. It was dispelling the myth that it's 'not easy being



Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, Airport Executive Director Tom Snow, Airport Managing Director Stephen Byron and Clearwater Technology Managing Director Colin Fisher.

green.' "I recently attended the opening here of Australia's very first 5 Green Star Building – a clear signal that when it comes to Canberra International Airport there is no such thing as 'business as usual.' There is just 'business as good as it can be.'"

The Airport will use two state of the art systems developed by a leading edge Australian company, Clearwater Technology, to recycle its waste water. The Aquacell Water Recycling Systems are chemical free and highly efficient producing Class A water on site.

The Aquacell Water System uses a three-phase filtration method to recycle waste water.

The waste is first subjected to aerobic biological treatment, a process that aerates the effluent and breaks it down with bacteria.

Phase two involves ultrafiltration. The water flows through a special self-cleaning membrane with microscopic pores – about the thickness of one hundredth of a human hair – to block particles, bacteria and viruses.

Phase three acts as an added safeguard, subjecting the water to high intensity ultra-violet light. This provides protection against possible pathogens and produces chemical free sterile water. Whilst the recycled water is

not used for drinking, it is of drinkable quality.

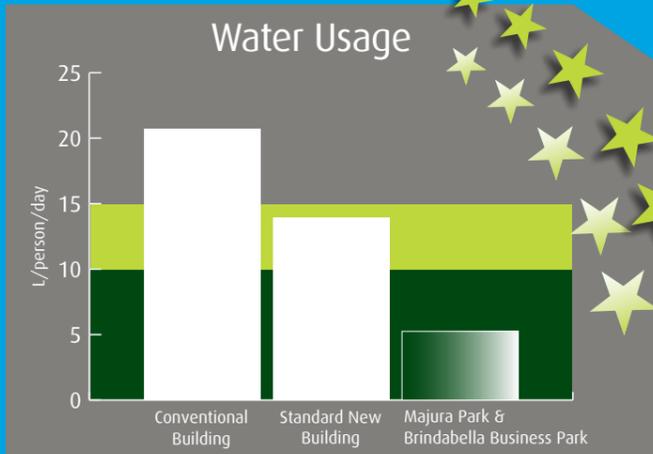
The Aquacell Water System is the first of its kind to be installed in a commercial setting in the ACT and will cost the Airport around \$1.2 million to establish, Mr. Snow said. "The decision to embrace water recycling is another step in a very deliberate policy to become Australia's greenest Airport. Over and above the financial benefits that this technology will deliver to the Airport, the contribution it will make to sustainability in the ACT is priceless and cannot be overstated because it will significantly reduce our consumption of town water at a time when we need every precious drop," Mr. Snow said.



## Paw Old Woody

In a past edition of The Hub, we acknowledged the important public relations role played at the Airport by 'Chilli' Terry Snow's faithful Blue Heeler.

We omitted to also credit the equally important contribution made by 'Woody', the Snow Family's Kelpie. This was an Editor's error.



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 | Layout: Melissa Evans | Photos: Ginette Snow

## Handling Sydney's Late Freight



Malaysian Air Cargo 747 diverted from Sydney on 12 February.

### May 15: Heavy all-cargo aircraft like this are now regular visitors to Canberra International Airport – and more are on the way.

The Atlas Air 747 was diverted to Canberra twice in a week after heavy fog closed Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport. According to Airport aviation manager, Mr Matthew Brown, diversions like this are a clear demonstration of the important back-up role Canberra plays since its main runway was strengthened and lengthened to accommodate heavy aircraft. Atlas Air was the second all-cargo aircraft to be diverted to Canberra – a Malaysian 747 was on the tarmac in April.

"We have negotiated agreements with a number of international freight cargo carriers to allow them to touch down in Canberra if there are weather problems in Sydney," Mr Byron said.

"Canberra is the only Airport within close proximity to Sydney that is both curfew and slot free. Its location is particularly advantageous to

time sensitive domestic and trans-Tasman freight which can be landed day or night and delivered to Sydney in a timely and cost efficient manner," he said.

Canberra would become even more attractive as the availability of slots and freight handling facilities at Sydney became increasingly scarce over the next decade. "We are ideally placed to take advantage of a business that will deliver new jobs and new business opportunities for Canberra," Mr Brown said.

"Anyone thinking of buying a house directly under our flight path should be aware that day and night 747 touchdowns will be a more regular occurrence in the future."



Atlas Air Cargo 747 diverted on 15 & 17 May.

### Inside this Issue



Page 3

TRALEE A MISTAKE SAYS CHIEF MINISTER



Page 4

AIRPORT ACTS TO PRESERVE TOWN WATER

