

World Leaders' Conference puts Spotlight on Canberra



When size matters (above). A Soviet designed Ilyushin strategic air lifter for APEC at Fairbairn.

Canberra's role as an international and national gateway came under the spotlight during the APEC leaders' conference in September.

A number of long-range aircraft from the Peoples Republic of China, Russia, Canada and Thailand were visible at times on the tarmac after ferrying leaders and their entourages to the Sydney conference and bilateral meetings with the Federal Government in Canberra.

"Any doubts about Canberra Airport's capacity to accommodate world leaders and their support staff were well and truly dispelled during the APEC conference," said Airport Managing Director, Mr. Stephen Byron.

"Our runway extension puts Canberra firmly on the map of world capitals and we're very proud of that fact."

Stephen Byron

"The number of international aircraft touching down during September allowed us to again fully test our capacity to handle them and I'm delighted to say we did it without a hitch."

More APEC pictures on back page...



Inside this Issue



Page 3

VIRGIN BLUE TARGETS
BUSINESS TRAVELLERS



Page 4

INSPECTOR REX SNIFFS OUT
CANBERRA

Business Gets Off to a Flying Start

A smart new conference centre at Canberra International Airport will give interstate and local businesses a convenient first-class place to meet and conduct their business affairs.

Officially opened for business on Thursday, August 9, the new Brindabella Conference Centre is part of a deliberate two-fold strategy by Managing Director, Mr. Stephen Byron, to make the Airport a centre of business excellence by attracting interstate business to the ACT.

"Airports like ours are ideal locations for time scarce business people to fly in and attend a conference. We recognised that growing business requirement and made the decision to build conference centres that were without equal."

Located beneath 35 Brindabella Circuit, the Brindabella Conference Centre includes a custom built state-of-the-art theatre, two conference rooms, a café and a bar.

The Alastair Swain Theatre offers tiered seating for 145, including 19 wheelchair locations at the

"Even though we live and work in a digital age, there is increasing demand for face-to-face meetings facilities, particularly in Canberra," Byron told an opening night of 'Who's Who' of professional conference organisers.

front and rear.

It also provides specialised systems to allow the hearing impaired to "tune in," digital audio systems for speech reinforcement and audio-visual presentation, and touch screen controls to guide all audio visual displays, including lighting.

DVD, CD and digital television and broadcast standard audio splitter boxes for media conferences are also available.

The Brindabella Conference Centre's Bendor and



Brindabella's custom built theatre.

Googong rooms provide flexible meeting and conference spaces and can be combined to make one large room.

"Our new conference facilities are ideal for the private and public sectors and are designed for strategic planning sessions, annual general meetings, business seminars, board meetings, training sessions, product launches and media conferences," Mr Byron said.

"We made a conscious decision to make the Airport the most environmentally sensitive and technologically advanced business hub in Australia and these conference facilities are a very important step along the way."

The Airport now boasts nine conference rooms across the Brindabella Business Park, which are currently booked 2,000 times a year.



Inspector Rex Sniffs Out Canberra

The venue was the Airport's former REX lounge, where else? And the occasion? A line-up of 22 inspector Rex 'wannabes' on show for the first time for the nation's media

The highly trained sniffer dogs form part of the Government's new front line in the fight to protect Australia's airports against terrorism.

Recruited specifically for the APEC Leaders' Conference, the dogs and their 'handlers' sniffed out a range of explosive materials deliberately placed in baggage and vehicles parked at the Airport.

This kind of protection is effective and doesn't come cheaply.

Attorney General, Philip Ruddock, said the Government had allocated \$9.3 million to the Australian Federal Police to substantially increase canine protection.

Mr Ruddock said each team consists of one AFP officer and dog, trained specifically for the APEC environment.

"APEC brings together some of the world's most important powers to facilitate economic growth in our region and, for these meetings to be successful, we need to ensure a secure environment," Mr Ruddock said.

"While the canines will carry out a valuable role in our security operations for APEC, they will be an asset to the AFP long after September."

The AFP's National Aviation Manager, Commander Grant, said the addition of 22 new explosives detection teams will strengthen the AFP's ability to prevent and respond to crime and threats of terrorism at airports and around Australia.

"Our 15 existing canine teams are part of the AFP's counter-terrorism first response function already deployed to Brisbane, Canberra,

Melbourne, Perth and Sydney airports under the Unified Policing Model." Commander Grant said.

"The addition of these 22 new teams more than doubles our current national capacity."

Following APEC, the 22 sworn handlers will undertake further training with a second dog trained in drug detection, giving the AFP a dual explosive detection and drug detection capability for use at Australia's 11 major airports and in national operations.



K9 surveillance, alert but not alarmed.

Fuelling the Future

Canberra International Airport has completed a major upgrade of its state-of-the-art underground fuel farm.

The upgrade increases the Airport's fuel farm capacity by around 250,000 litres. Operating 24 hours a day, the farm now stores around 660,000 litres of jet fuel and 150,000 litres of aviation gas.

Airport Managing Director, Mr Stephen Byron, said the upgrade reflected the increase in aviation traffic to Canberra.

"The extra fuel farm capacity gives us the capability to effectively serve the ongoing requirements of the aviation industry and meet the one-off demands of international forums like APEC which produce a dramatic increase in aviation activity to and from the nation's capital."

In order to match demand, Airport Project Manager, Mr Steven Conway, was given just 10 weeks to complete the project. "Thanks to the cooperation of our partners, Global Petroleum, Caltex, Brindabella Civil Landscape and Airport operations staff we turned the project around with time to spare." Mr Conway said the additional fuel capacity would give the Airport the capability it requires to handle the bigger, wide bodied freighter aircraft now being diverted to Canberra.

The project also included a significant upgrade of the fuel farm's access roads to handle the bigger petrol tankers.

"It demonstrates our commitment and confidence in the future of Canberra and aviation generally," Mr Byron said. Using the latest in advanced technologies, the fuel farm operates under strict environmental controls. Encased in two layers of protective material, the fuel tanks are buried deep underground and fitted with sophisticated monitoring equipment. "This upgrade reflects our ongoing commitment to quality, safety and sustainability," Mr Byron said.

The new fuel farm went on stream on Friday, 31 August.



Airport MD Stephen Byron looks to the future.

NCA Recognises Urban Design Excellence

The National Capital Authority has nominated two Airport buildings as case studies in urban design excellence.

The Brindabella Technology Centre and the Qantas Hangar, both located within the Brindabella Business Park, have been selected as outstanding examples in urban design excellence.

The Commission for Architecture and the Built

Environment describes urban excellence this way: "It is the art of making places for people. It includes the way places work and matters such as community safety, as well as how they look. It concerns the connection between people and places, movement and urban form, nature and the built fabric, and the process for ensuring a successful city. Urban design is key to making sustainable developments and the conditions for flourishing economic life, prudent use of natural resources and social progress. Good design can help create lively places with a distinctive character, streets and public spaces that are safe, accessible pleasant to use and human in scale; and places that inspire because of imagination and sensitivity to their designers."

The Brindabella Technology Centre was designed by renowned Canberra architect Alastair Swayn and landscaped by Envirolinks.

The NCA says the building characterised by a bold use of colour integrated with sculptural

Virgin Blue's Re-entry into Canberra

Virgin Blue's new Brazilian built E-jet services would introduce a new era of comfort and timely performance for Canberra's air travellers, Airport MD, Mr Stephen Byron said.

"The new Embraer jets are perfectly suited to the requirements of our travellers who want fast, reliable and comfortable single class travel to and from the national capital," he said. "Travellers will particularly welcome the spaciousness of these new aircraft." Wider aisles and seats and big overhead lockers and windows are unique features of the new E-jets and with no middle seat everyone gets an aisle or window.

"The fact that Virgin Blue has chosen the Canberra to Sydney route as the first in a new range of services says much about its confidence in the region," Mr Byron said.

Virgin Blue's re-entry into the Canberra to Sydney market on 4 February next year with 108 flights a week and 8 direct daily flights on weekdays would deliver a much needed competitive edge to the local market.

"With its new Canberra business class lounge and new jet services, Virgin Blue is sparing no expense to capture a larger slice of the local market. I congratulate Virgin Blue for its enterprise and long-term commitment to the national capital," Mr Byron said. "I urge all business travellers particularly those on the government payroll to support the competitive and sophisticated service that the airline now offers."



forms; an innovative atrium which achieves improved energy efficiency and natural daylighting; well designed staff outdoor areas, courtyards, water features and integrated public art.

The Daryl Jackson and Alastair Swayn designed Qantas Hangar is an example of how an idiosyncratic functional building can be well designed to respond to its surrounds. The NCA says the development provides excellent internal working environments, with light and airy spaces; special features like self cleaning walls, sloping floor and curtain doors; and stepping of built form along the west façade, which incorporates two storeys of office accommodation.

Judge's Ruling Says Noise will be a Problem at Tralee

Thursday, 16 August: The Village Building Company has been dealt a significant legal blow by the Federal Court which kept alive the prospect that much of the Tralee site is ineligible for residential use.

The Village Building Company, had sought an order from the court that an Australian Noise Exposure Forecast commissioned by Canberra International Airport could not be endorsed by Airservices Australia.

Village Building Company Chief Executive, Bob Winnel, claimed that the draft forecast for noise pollution was too far-sighted and was not a realistic estimate of the Airport's future.

Justice Stephen Rares threw out Mr Winnel's application, ruling that the forecast was valid. "The fact that the maximum noise exposure may not be reached for a considerable time, 43 years in the present case, does not detract from its utility as a planning tool," Justice Rares said.

The Judge warned about the dangers of not having a long-term view with residential developments near airports, which could restrict an airport's expansion many years down the track.

"And once such an incompatible development occurs, the Airport may be constrained in being developed or used to meet the future needs of the city it services, by the intervening development in the vicinity of the Airport," Justice Rares said.

If endorsed, the forecast will prohibit residential development on most of the land at north and south Tralee sites in Queanbeyan, as they are directly under the Airport's flight path and the projected noise levels would exceed the limit to which NSW residents can be exposed.

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, welcomed the court ruling and said he had expected Mr Winnel to continue the fight because there was so much money at stake.

"It's desperation for the sake of \$1 billion," Mr Byron said, based on his estimate that the 5,000 proposed residences could be sold at \$200,000 each.

"It's an entirely short-term approach that would cripple not only the future of the Airport's ability to serve the region beyond a 20 year horizon but would subject people to the misery of aircraft noise, unable to sleep at night."

Meeting the Greenhouse Challenge

Canberra International Airport is working closely with the Australian Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Airport has obtained Membership of Greenhouse Challenge Plus by achieving the following objectives:

- Providing more consistent reporting of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Accelerating the uptake of energy efficiency; and
- Integrating greenhouse issues into business decision making.

Membership is established through an agreement between the Australian Government and each industry participant.

Airport Executive Director, Tom Snow, said the initiative fitted perfectly with the Airport's leading role in matters green. "Having built Australia's first 5 Green Star commercial building, we are well aware of the considerable advantages of being green. We are delighted to be playing our role in the Government's Climate Change Strategy."

The agreement outlines a tailored individual action plan to reduce and abate greenhouse gas emissions as set out in the Greenhouse Challenge Plus Programme Framework 2005.

"Participants who meet or exceed their obligations and fulfil additional criteria have the opportunity to become a Greenhouse Challenge Plus Leader," Mr Snow said.

Successful industry participants will be able to publicise their environmental leadership and commitment to the program through the display and use of Greenhouse Challenge Plus Member or Greenhouse Challenge Plus Leader logo.



APEC high flyers highlight Airport's international reach.

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