

MEDIA RELEASE

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Canberra Airport Upgrades Airfield Lighting to Increase Safety and Landings in Fog

Canberra Airport is installing a new, additional airfield ground lighting system that will benefit pilots and passengers. This new runway lighting system, will assist both landing and departing aircraft at Canberra Airport and create even more reliable service for passengers, especially in foggy and rainy weather.

The new Category II lighting system, with new touch down and runway centreline lights and enhanced back up reliability, will provide better visibility for pilots and allow them to get closer to the runway during attempts to land. Currently, on approach, pilots can go as low as 200 feet above the runway before deciding if they have enough visibility to land. The new Category II lighting system allows them to get just 100 feet off the ground, much closer to the runway and lights, making landing for pilots much easier and more likely. For passengers, this means more aircraft can land, saving time and increasing safety in adverse weather.

“With more domestic and international flights leaving and arriving into Canberra daily, we are constantly trying to improve the reliability of arrivals and departures,” says Stephen Byron, Managing Director of Canberra Airport. “This runway and taxiway improvement will save time and enhance safety in low-visibility weather situations like Canberra’s winter time fog,”

This airfield lighting upgrade will make the Airport’s main runway a full Category II, internationally-compliant, low-visibility operation in July 2018. Canberra Airport has collaborated with airlines, Airservices Australia, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and contractors to deliver this upgrade. This is the latest project in Canberra Airport’s “A Minute Matters” initiative, which recognises the value of our customers’ time and strives to move passengers quickly through the airport and on and off flights.

“We know guests will be comfortable in our terminal, but they also want to get to their destinations without cancellations or delays, and this is another way for us to show them we understand every minute matters,” says Mr Byron.

Past Canberra Airport upgrades to enhance safety, efficiency and passenger comfort include:

- Runway lengthening and strengthening to allow service for Boeing 747 long-haul flights in 2006
- New terminal design and construction, unveiled in 2013, CBR’s 100th birthday year

- An additional gate and aerobridges at the terminal, to reduce passenger delays during peak periods

For more information, please contact Kathleen Sweetapple, Communications and Media Officer at Capital Airport Group at 0455 22 77 11 or K.Sweetapple@canberraairport.com.au.

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