

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Canberra Airport Welcomes New Head of Aviation to Drive Growth**

Canberra Airport has appointed a new Head of Aviation, Michael Thomson who most recently turned around the ACT Brumbies rugby organisation, returning it to profitability in a difficult climate and sooner than expected.

“Michael Thomson is an excellent addition to the Capital Airport Group leadership team. His achievements demonstrate he is a very successful leader who can drive growth and manage a high-performing organisation,” says Stephen Byron, Managing Director of Capital Airport Group. “He is highly skilled at building positive relationships, and his experience proves he is successful at managing both community assets and well-loved brands.”

In addition to his local experience, Thomson’s outstanding skills were honed through his work at several prestigious sports institutions such as FIFA Marketing AG, Sport Australia and Nike. His previous work also includes international experience in Europe and Asia, with a depth of knowledge in China that will be an asset as Canberra Airport looks to pursue growth across in lucrative international markets.

“I am looking forward to being involved with Canberra’s overarching aim of building new links with international airlines, cities and travellers,” says Michael Thomson, Capital Airport Group’s new Head of Aviation. “So far Canberra Airport has done a fantastic job, and now we have an even greater opportunity to build international links with direct flights, increasing tourism and more business opportunities. I am keen to develop those opportunities and contribute to the continued success of the group.”

“We are looking forward to Michael joining us in 2019 and believe he is a great fit for our organisation,” says Mr Byron. “As a Canberran, he understands our community approach and commitment to growing our local economy, and his experience shows he will be key to helping us build stronger relationships with powerful industry stakeholders and international partners.”

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