

Canberra Airport 2020 Master Plan

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Foreword

Over 21 years ago, we set out with a vision to create the best small airport in the world. Much of the ensuing time has been devoted to developing a new airport befitting of the National Capital. Our previous Master Plans in 1999, 2005, 2009 and 2014 outlined the approach needed to achieve that and accordingly we have invested heavily in delivering a national infrastructure asset of which the Canberra Region community can be justly proud.

In 2014, Canberra Airport was designated as a suburb within the ACT, recognising the site as an important part of the Territory, and as a formal destination within the City.

Your airport has unrivalled environmental credentials, iconic design features, world-class amenities and passionate community support. This is what we said we would deliver, and we have done it, notwithstanding the impacts of airline collapses, SARS, 9/11, the global financial crisis, volcanic ash plumes and a host of other potential deal-breakers along the way.

With the terminal finished, internationally capable and connecting the Canberra Region directly with the rest of the world with our original airline partner Singapore Airlines (September 2016) and followed by Qatar Airways (February 2018), our focus turns to delivering a landmark transport hub incorporating air, rail and road transport.

How this will benefit the population nearing 950,000 people living in the Canberra Region and beyond cannot be underestimated and is not yet widely comprehended. The international flights are introducing our Region to the world and traction is beginning. The main thrust of our efforts is to drive aviation growth and optimise this important national asset.

It is in Australia's national interest that its National Capital city has become directly connected with Asia and beyond.

We believe that our future growth and investment is linked closely to the economic growth and prosperity of our community and this 2020 Master Plan outlines our vision to help achieve that. Cutbacks in the public service over the past ten years [and significantly for us its travel budget] have shown that our Region can no longer only rely on the public sector as the driver of economic activity, but that our future lies in diversifying and attracting new businesses and industries, particularly those that reflect the strengths of our Region; smart offerings in education, tourism, IT and cyber security, defence and national security, transport, light manufacturing and niche agricultural export opportunities. Canberra Airport stands poised to play a key role in that future.

Our latest 2020 Master Plan has been prepared in accordance with the *Airports Act 1996*, and in consultation with the community and key airport stakeholders.

We commend it to you and welcome your feedback.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Snow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'T'.

Terry Snow
Executive Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Byron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'S'.

Stephen Byron
Managing Director

Executive Summary

Over the next eight years the focus of Canberra Airport is to host more inbound passengers on more aircraft across a wider range of airlines. The 2020 Master Plan outlines expectations of both more international and low cost carriers commencing services within the next eight years resulting in more than nine million passengers by 2040. We are passionate about connecting the Canberra Region to international ports and opening doors for business. There are opportunities in the areas of inbound tourism, education and investment and outbound business services and the airfreight of goods and produce. This objective continues to receive support from the community and government across the region.

The Canberra Airport ethos is to invest early to provide room for growth. Capacity available across the Airport site in aviation, retail and office facilities is an economic and social opportunity shared with the Canberra Region.

The award-winning terminal is the foundation for aviation growth at Canberra Airport. Opened in April 2014 by the Honourable Tony Abbott MP, then Prime Minister, the 'splendid' \$480 million terminal and accompanying apron and car parks have been designed and built to be capable of hosting over eight million domestic and international passengers a year, with a designed extension to 12 million passengers.

A number of Airport precincts have come of age as noticeable contributors to the Canberra economy. Most notably in 2018/19, Majura Park attracted over four million regional shoppers and the Brindabella Business Park now houses over 9,000 employees. Each element of the Airport site is poised with capacity to service the growing transport, office and retail requirements of the 1.2 million people expected to be living in the region in 2040.

Airport management are committed to being in touch with our community, governments and with business about the development of the site and ongoing integration into the social, economic growth and prosperity of the region. The Airport partakes in a number of established stakeholder forums focused on a vision where the growth of the region is enhanced by the growth of its airport.

The opening of IKEA in November 2015 on ACT land adjacent Majura Park is an example of new investment in our region by an international company, leveraging off the Airport's investment in retail and office facilities at Majura Park. IKEA now provides a unique service and international brand to the region.

More recently the Airport was pleased to work collaboratively with the ACT Government in securing international flights in 2016 and the significant growth in the start-up services in 2018. In 2017, the NSW Government acknowledged Canberra Airport as a key Global Gateway to NSW. The repositioning of our region as a Global Gateway is already providing real social and economic dividends.

Jobs across the airport site are forecast to grow from 14,000 now (9,500 confirmed in Brindabella Business Park) to 16,000 by December 2020, 20,000 by 2025/28 and 36,000 by 2040 in response to growth in aviation as well as retail and office expansion and the region's economy.

The main Runway 17/35 is international Boeing 747 long-range ready, with taxiway works planned over the next eight years to provide greater efficiencies in ground movements. In consultation with airlines, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and Airservices Australia, navigation aids will continue to be upgraded to enhance operability in low visual conditions. The runways and airfield will continue to operate without night-time operation restrictions, representing a competitive advantage for the region particularly for international flights and movement of freight.

The 2020 Master Plan discusses aviation capacity for the Canberra Region in 50-60 years' time which is when the main runway is forecast to reach its practical limits. Airport management has included a parallel runway concept which requires the acquisition of land adjacent the Fairbairn precinct from the Australian Government.

Safeguarding airports and the communities around them is an Australian Government, State, Territory and Local Government challenge acknowledged in the Master Plan. The National Airports Safeguarding Framework finalised in 2012 (with updates since) aims to improve amenity for communities within the vicinity of Australian airports as well as safety outcomes for aircraft, airports and aviation users. Canberra Airport will continue to work co-operatively with relevant agencies as the Framework is implemented.

Canberra Airport continues discussion with the ACT Government about road infrastructure within the vicinity of the Airport and in particular connecting to the Majura Parkway, opened in 2016. Over the next eight years, the growth of the region, in particular in Gungahlin and the Queanbeyan-Palerang region, will place pressure on the east-west network connecting the City, Parliamentary Triangle and Russell to the Parkway and beyond to the Airport and Queanbeyan. The Airport Interchange (Majura Parkway and Fairbairn Avenue) has been historically planned to become the primary north-south entrance to Canberra. Further, the demands arising from regional growth for Pialligo Avenue and the Barton Highway to be duplicated between Canberra Airport, Yass and Queanbeyan will fuel east-west traffic growth into the Airport interchange and Morshead Drive. The Airport is keen to see capacity is provided to meet the burgeoning traffic demands of a growing region.

The Canberra Airport Board and management celebrate 21 years of continuous environmental improvement across the airport site. The Airport Environment Policy remains as current today as it was when first developed in 1998 because it provides for leadership in environmental management and continuous improvement. The Canberra Airport Environment Strategy focuses on continued protection of endangered flora and fauna known to be present on the airport site, namely Natural Temperate Grassland, the Grassland Earless Dragon and the Golden Sun Moth and recognising research commissioned by the Airport to improve Grassland establishment and Dragon management in the region.

The Airport remains committed to liaising with, and contributing to, the endangered species research community and environmental groups in the region to not only manage its impacts but add to the body of knowledge on protecting and enhancing endangered species populations.

The Environment Strategy sets out ongoing commitments to manage natural resources and heritage values across the airport. In particular, over the next eight years the Airport will build upon existing connections with neighbours to appropriately manage stormwater flows around the airport site, and also focus on improving the auditing framework for high risk tenants.

Comments received, particularly from State, Territory and Local Governments, affirm the continued growth of the Airport as an economic driver in the region while delivering social dividends. There are significant opportunities for business growth and community prosperity over the next eight years through the establishment of new international and domestic connections for passengers and freight, and we look forward to working alongside everyone to deliver this outcome.