Run, run, run...away

A far-sighted development plan that firmly positions Canberra International Airport as a true national and international gateway was announced on Tuesday 23 September.

It improves access, enhances safety and enables the Airport to more effectively service the new-generation of wide-bodied civilian and military aircraft. The plan complies with the Airport's present Year 2020 Master Plan. However because it involves a major upgrade of the Airport's existing infrastructure, it is subject to 90 days public consultation and comment, before being submitted to the Minister for Transport for final approval.

Extending and strengthening the main runway and taxiways is essential if the Airport is to meet the anticipated doubling of passenger numbers - from 1.9 million to more than 4 million - over the next 20 years.

Under the proposed development plan:

- The main runway will be extended by approximately 450 metres to the south. This will include construction of a new turning node to allow wide-bodied aircraft to manoeuvre at the end of the new runway and a protective fence to protect traffic on Pialligo Avenue from jet-blast.

- Parallel taxiways to the north and south will be extended by approximately 1,200 metres and 450 metres respectively, improving the Airport's operational capacity and reducing aircraft delays.

The main runway will be strengthened to allow unlimited and unrestricted movement of wide-bodied aircraft, particularly those carrying visiting Heads of State. Presently only limited numbers of such aircraft are permitted because of potential pavement damage.

"Canberra's present runway is the shortest of all mainland capital cities," Managing Director Stephen Byron said. *"This means that some wide-bodied aircraft on departure are either weight restricted or must refuel at another Australian airport before continuing overseas. This places a significant financial burden on the aircraft operator and the Australian taxpayer who picks up the tab for visiting Heads of State."*

In keeping with its responsibilities to raise awareness under the Airports Act, Canberra International Airport will undertake a program of public consultations to raise public awareness of the development plan. This will include public meetings at Jerrabomberra and the Airport, and the release of all relevant information on the Airport's website:

www.canberraairport.com.au

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CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THE HUB

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G'DAY GEORGE!

Air Force One, the Boeing 747-200 carrying US President George W. Bush and Mrs Bush, touched down at Canberra International Airport – on a runway specifically upgraded for such an important visit.

The Airport's main runway was upgraded in 2001 at a cost of $8.8 million to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft bringing VIP visitors to the national capital. "This important state visit signals Canberra's coming of age as a true national gateway," Airport Executive Chairman, Terry Snow said.

"No longer will visiting Heads of State be required to change planes in Sydney in order to meet our national leaders."

Air Force One is the flagship of the American Presidential fleet and the most technologically advanced aircraft of its kind in the world.

Bristling with state of the art communications, anti-missile defences and furnishings that befit the Commander in Chief of the world's most powerful country, the aircraft carries sufficient fuel to fly half way around the world before refuelling.

Capable of storing up to 2000 meals, Air Force One carries around 383 kilometres of wiring inside its fuselage which ensures the President stays in touch with people on the ground at all times.

The aircraft is also shielded against the effects of electromagnetic pulse, a side effect of nuclear detonations.

The President's Canberra visit involved a massive security operation. Giant US transport aircraft were regular visitors to the Airport in the lead up to the President's visit, bringing in his bulletproof limousine, stand-by vehicle, a fully fitted ambulance and helicopter.

Inside:

- QANTAS and Virgin Blue boost Canberra Services
- Run, run, run...away

Season's Greetings!

Canberra Opens to the World

By Stephen Byron, Managing Director.

This edition of *The Hub* is especially pleasing because it records our coming-of-age as a true national gateway. Two important events demonstrate this.

The first was the arrival of Air Force One carrying US President George W. Bush to Canberra. The second was a welcome announcement by Qantas that it will introduce direct services to Perth early next year.

Thanks to a major upgrade of the main runway in 2001, the President and his official party – travelling in three 747s – were able to fly direct from Bali to Canberra for talks with the Australian government. No longer will world leaders visiting us have to endure the hassle, the delay and the inconvenience of changing aircraft in Sydney. What was also pleasing about this event was the number of Canberrans who lined the airport roads and car parks to catch a glimpse of the flying White House.

The decision by Qantas to launch direct services to Perth early next year is yet another vote of confidence in Canberra as a significant business and tourist destination. This is a service that Qantas says will be competitively priced and structured in a way to allow a full day's business in Canberra. We are very confident about this service and have offered landing rebates to Qantas to further encourage growth.

This edition also features elements of a two-part ad we placed in *The Canberra Times* and *The Australian Financial Review. (See above)* The response to the ad was surprising and encouraging.

Were we serious? Do we really believe we have an answer to a problem that's dogged governments for decades? Well, the answer to both questions is yes. Let me explain. In my opinion, Simon Crean's decision not to support Badgery's Creek as a site for Sydney's second airport, means it's highly unlikely that we will ever see another airport developed in our most crowded city. The issue is too difficult politically, and who's going to spend the money, let alone try to build an airport in such a troubled environment?

So, why the ad? We wanted to send a clear message to all our stakeholders that we are well positioned to take some of Sydney's load. Not over night, but over time, maybe 5 to 15 years from now.

We are building on our capacity to accommodate wide-bodied jets.

(See our plans to extend the runway.)

We continue to work closely with our neighbours to ensure that aircraft noise is minimised and none of them ever have to live under the flight path.

Through working closely and collaboratively, we can strengthen our role as 'an engine of growth', provide new jobs and new opportunities and achieve all this without compromising our unique standards of living.

Perth Bound

Photographer: David Morrell/Avid Creations

QANTAS goes West

In a major coup for business and tourism in the ACT, Qantas will commence direct 737-400 services between the two cities from February 4 next year.

The Managing Director of Canberra International Airport, Stephen Byron, described the new service as a wonderful vote of confidence in Canberra that would boost tourism and business travel. *"Qantas is backing up its new service with holiday packages that over time have the capacity to grow the market by more than 30%."* **Byron said.**

Key features of the new daily service includes:

- A competitive one way fare of $210 - a saving of around $45
- A timetable that allows for a full day's business to be conducted in Canberra and,
- A saving of more than one hour in travelling time.

"As well as being good news for business travellers, we believe the convenience of these direct services and the lower fares will encourage more holiday travel between Western Australia and the ACT", **Executive General Manager Qantas Airlines, John Borghetti said.**

"The key benefits of these non-stop services are the convenience of a same plane service and reduced travelling times."

The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Senator Ian Campbell, hailed the announcement as a welcome and historic linking of the national capital and the people of Western Australia.

"All Australians should visit our national capital," he said.

Brindabella goes Metro

Brindabella Airlines has taken delivery of an 18-seater Metro 3 aircraft for its busy Canberra to Newcastle service.

Purchased in America for $1.4 million, the Metro touched down in Canberra after a 28 hour flight that saw it fly across the Pacific via Hawaii, Samoa and Norfolk Island.

The twin-engine Metro will slash travel time between the two cities by 15 minutes, completing the journey in less than an hour.

Lara-Corey Boyd, Managing Director Brindabella Airlines, said the new aircraft would increase the airlines capacity to cater for business travel, which currently accounts for 91% of all passenger numbers.

"The purchase of the new aircraft is very exciting and lifts our airline to a new level," she said. The new Metro service to Newcastle starts mid December.

Metro Touch Up

www.canberraairport.com.au

New Virgin Services

Virgin Blue Boosts Canberra Services

Canberra International Airport has welcomed Virgin Blue's decision to add three new direct services to its Canberra network.

The discount airline has launched a weekly service to Coolangatta, a second daily service to Brisbane and a new daily service to Adelaide.

"These new services are ideal because they save travellers time and money and they help ease some of Sydney's Kingsford Smith's congestion,"

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron said.

"Instead of sitting around in transit lounges waiting to change planes in Sydney, travellers on these services will go direct to their destination. Virgin Blues Canberra schedule is a triumph of common sense because it bypasses Australia's busiest and overcrowded airport," **Byron said**.

Delivery of new aircraft enabled Virgin Blue to launch its new daily direct service to Adelaide on Friday September 5 – four weeks earlier than planned. The Adelaide flight departs Canberra early in the evening allowing travellers to get the most from their day before flying to Adelaide in time for dinner.

Virgin Blue's Head of Communications, David Huttner, said the non-stop service to Adelaide is a direct response to market demand and would help boost tourism and business opportunities in the two cities.

He said Virgin Blue's decision to add even more direct services to Canberra is a direct result of ongoing support from local tourist operators and business and leisure travellers.

The Saturday flight to Coolangatta departs Canberra at 5.45pm arriving at the Gold Coast at 7.25pm before returning to Canberra the same night at 9.25pm.

Huttner said if demand is strong for the new services, Virgin Blue would consider additional services to the Gold Coast and Northern New South Wales.

Virgin Blue currently holds around 30% of the domestic travel market.

Aerospace Centre

Brindabella Commercial Centre

Airport Wins Property Council Award

Canberra International Airport has won the prestigious 2003 Rider Hunt Award for excellence in commercial performance.

The Rider Hunt Award was presented to the Airport for two of its new buildings in the Brindabella Business Park - The Brindabella Commercial and Aerospace Centres.

Accepting the award at the Property Council's Award Ceremony on Friday 18th July, Airport Executive Chairman, Terry Snow, said the award was a tribute to a great team who had all made significant contributions to the quality of the buildings and the landscaping surrounding them.

"We are very proud of what we have achieved with the Brindabella Business Park. We set out to make it a centre of excellence, a workplace that would attract new industries and create new jobs," he said.

"So far, so good. If we are going to attract the best and brightest minds to the ACT we have to provide them with working environments that allow them to flourish. This award recognises excellence in commercial performance and I am delighted to accept it."

Terry Snow said.

The Property Council judges said they were impressed with the innovation, entrepreneurship, quality of the workspaces and landscaping within the development. This coupled with tenant satisfaction, adaptability and financial factors had combined to make both buildings a success.

Award winners Noel McCann, Stephen Byron and Terry Snow

Passenger numbers set to soar

The number of passengers using Canberra International Airport is set to more than double within the next 20 years.

This is one of the key findings of a study that seeks to determine, among other things, the likely annual growth rate of international and domestic traffic between now and the year 2024. The study's findings will be incorporated into the Airport's revised 2024 Master Plan and will provide a framework for its future rational expansion.

Drawing on industry trends and passenger movements since 1960, the study forecasts an annual growth rate of 4.2% at Canberra International Airport and predicts passenger numbers will reach approximately 5.2 million by the year 2024. Aircraft movements during the same period will rise by 2.3% to around 146,000 a year.

Managing Director Stephen Byron said the study's findings give confidence to the Airport's vision to become a major travel hub for South-eastern Australia.

"We have embarked on a major rebuild of the Airport's infrastructure and this study justifies our confidence in the future of Canberra as a first class gateway for business and tourism,"
Stephen Byron said.

Rather than seek to forecast a year-by-year growth rate, the study identifies long-term trends in order to predict future traffic levels.

"Since 1982, the long term trend at Canberra International Airport has been one of steady growth, save for the pilots strike in the late 80s, the more recent events of September 11, the collapse of Ansett, the war against terrorism and SARS. There was a strong rebound in growth after the pilots strike and the study says there are signs of a similar rebound occurring now," **Byron said.**

The study concludes that annual passenger demand this financial year is estimated at around 2.2 million. In developing its forecasts for long-term growth, the study also took account of more recent events in the local aviation market.

These included:

- A new market for Virgin Blue which is carrying passengers who have not travelled before
- The subsequent release of cheaper air fares and increased tourism to Canberra because of competition between Virgin Blue and Qantas.
- Attractive incentives offered by Canberra International Airport to new airlines, and
- The opportunity to bypass Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport by offering direct services from Canberra to destinations such as Brisbane, Newcastle and the Gold Coast.

Traffic congestion in Sydney could trigger the introduction of direct international services from Canberra.

The study also forecasts a gradual build-up of international services starting with two Boeing 737 services to New Zealand by 2004/5 and a mixture of scheduled and charter services to the Pacific and Asia by 2009/10.

"If this build up is achieved, there will be around 250,000 direct international passenger movements through Canberra by the year 2024.

The study provides a timely snapshot of a future we are confident that we can manage to the benefit of Canberra as a tourist destination and to the Airport as a major growth centre for the region," **Byron said.**

Stop the drop

Canberra International Airport will continue to play a progressive and responsible role in saving water during this spring and summer.

The Airport implemented a voluntary program of water restrictions last November, shutting down fountains, reducing overall watering time and restricting water cleaning of paved or cement areas for hygiene purposes only.

The Airport and Brindabella Business Park draws its water from an extensive network of underground bores.

Café Avion takes off

Café Avion is the latest venture to open its doors in the Brindabella Business Park.

Open for breakfast until 5.30pm Monday to Friday and catering for up to 120 customers, Café Avion is located on Brindabella Circuit overlooking the Airport's main runway.

"It's great to be part of the Airport's development because there is a real sense of being part of a larger team," say owners **Jacky** (right) and **Zvonko Blazevik**. "The Airport is a growing business and we are confident that we can offer clients something new in the attractive surrounds of the Brindabella Business Park."

New access road opens

The new access road to Brindabella Circuit from Pialligo Avenue opened in September. The road provides a direct link to Queanbeyan from the park and an alternative to those tenants who wish to avoid Airport traffic.

Introducing Alpha's new kitchen

Alpha Catering, one of Australia's leading airline catering services, is constructing a new kitchen at Canberra International Airport.... and it's not just any kitchen!

Costing $1.25 million the new kitchen will employ 40 staff and will contribute to a business that produces 80,000 airline meals a week across the country.

Due for completion in December, the kitchen is one of thirteen Alpha Catering facilities nationwide.

According to John Creegan, Alpha's Canberra Manager, Canberra International Airport is one of its biggest and busiest facilities catering for a wide range of international visitors, including the Japanese Royal Family, the Prime Ministers of Portugal and Greece, representatives of the Chinese government and our own Prime Minister.