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AIRPORT OF THE YEAR 2002

THE HUB

CANBERRA AIRPORT

IT'S CANBERRA!

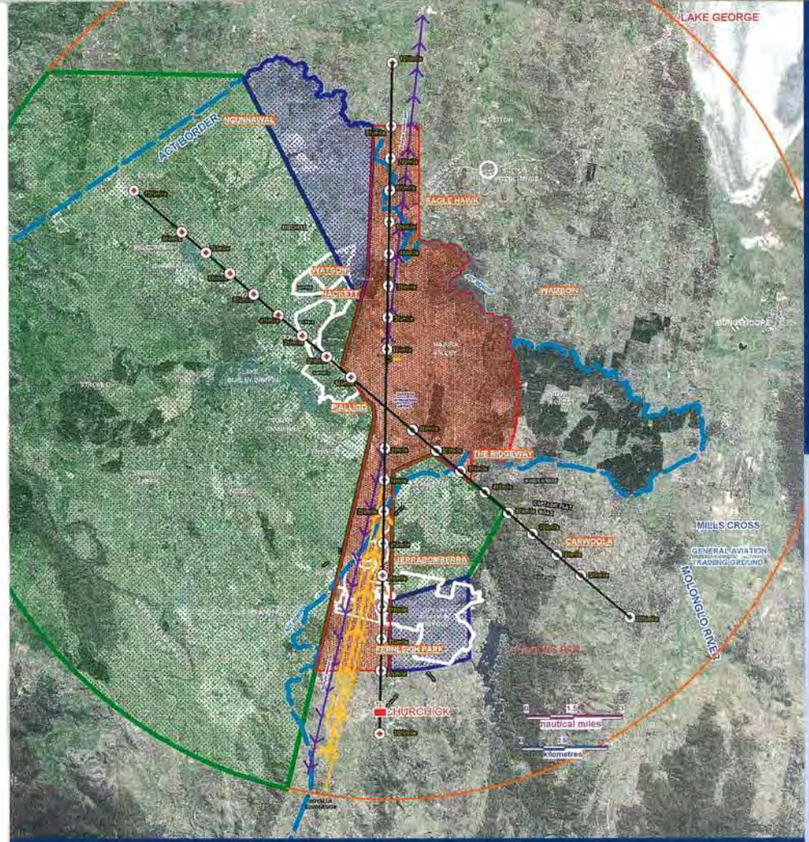
Canberra International Airport is the Australian Major Airport of the Year

Canberra won the prestigious aviation award from an impressive field of big city airports that included Sydney, Melbourne and last year's winner Brisbane.

The award recognises the Airport's leadership and excellence in Australian Aviation and Airport Management and was presented to Managing Director, Stephen Byron, by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services, John Anderson, at the annual Australian Airports Association dinner in Adelaide on 11 November.

"Airports say a lot about a place because they are both a city's business card and its handshake. They tell us what a community yearns to be as well as what it really is."

Pico Iyler, Travel Writer



AIRPORT WANTS LAW TO PROTECT RESIDENTS

Canberra International Airport is negotiating a cross–border–agreement with the Federal, NSW and ACT government's to block the development of housing estates within the High Noise Aircraft Corridors.

The Airport wants legislative enforcement for a policy that would effectively 'lock it' into the long term planning strategies of NSW and the ACT.

"We have written to Planning Ministers in all three jurisdictions seeking their support for a planning policy that would protect once and for all Canberra communities from the unpleasant impact of aircraft noise," Stephen Byron, Airport Managing Director, said.

The new policy would prohibit rezoning rural lands within the high noise aircraft corridors for residential use. The management of flight paths would be divided into three distinct zones: (see plan)

Green Current Canberra and Queanbeyan noise abatement zones – jets not permitted to overfly at less than 5000 feet above ground;

Blue Appropriate for new residents and future inclusion in the Canberra and Queanbeyan noise abatement zones;

Red High noise corridors subject to low flying aircraft and inappropriate for residential development.

"Because of sensible planning over the last 50 years, 99.5% of our community, approximately 134,000 homes, is at present sheltered from the adverse impact of aircraft noise. However, developments across the border at Tralee are putting this at risk," Byron said. An application at present before Queanbeyan City Council seeks to rezone rural land at Tralee as residential to allow the development of a housing estate under the Airport's main Southern Jet Departure Flight Path. According to AirServices Australia, a residential development at Tralee would inevitably lead to calls for noise sharing for all of Canberra and Queanbeyan.

"We want legislative support for a policy that once and for all protect communities against the adverse impact of aircraft noise."

Stephen Byron, Airport Managing Director

"We want a cross border agreement that ensures all our communities enjoy the same levels of noise protection. The only way we can achieve that is through the cooperation and legislative support of Planning Ministers who can integrate the Airport into the Territory and National Capital Plans of the ACT and Plan First in NSW."

The Airport's call for a cross border agreement follows an extensive process of public soundings that started almost 3 years ago and produced more than 80 submissions from concerned parties and included AirServices Australia, the Department of Transport and Regional Services, the NSW and ACT Territory government's, National Capital Authority, Master Builder's Association, Housing Industry Association and Gunning, Yarrowlumla and Queanbeyan City Councils.

The new planning policy now before Planning Ministers is a direct outcome of those meetings and has three important aims:

- Protect the Canberra and Queanbeyan communities from aircraft noise;
- Halt the development of housing estates on rural land under the Airport's north and south high noise aircraft corridors and;
- Safeguard the operational integrity of an inner city Airport and the airlines that serve it.

"If we are to preserve our present high levels of sustainable social and environmental amenities we must work with governments and their planning agencies as a matter of urgency to stop the growth of incompatible developments like that planned for Tralee," Byron said.

RAAF REMEMBERS

LEFT: Between the Flags: The Roulettes salute 80 years of history; **ABOVE LEFT:** Squadron Leader (retired) Jeff Trappett and his prized Mustang; **ABOVE RIGHT:** F111's on the Horizon. **BELOW:** Phil Shaw and Canberra crew.

Photos courtesy of RAAF Canberra

RAAF Base Fairbairn was the staging post for a spectacular range of aircraft that took part in a flypast over Canberra on November 1.

The flypast marked the dedication of the national Air Force Memorial on Anzac Parade which celebrates 80 years of history, tradition and honour.

After the official unveiling of the memorial by Governor General, the skies over Canberra were filled with some of the RAAF's best known aircraft – graceful Vampires and Mustangs from the Second World War to the more modern war birds of Korea and Vietnam – the Canberra Bomber and the F111.

A CAPITAL CHRISTMAS

Canberra International Airport, Australia's major Airport of the Year, is a principal sponsor of this year's premier outdoor Christmas Concert on the lawns in front of Parliament House.

Broadcast live by Network Ten to prime time audience of around 25,000 on Sunday 22 December, 'Celebrate Christmas in the Capital' has attracted the cream of Australia's musical talent including Vanessa Amorosi, Wendy Matthews, Bachelor Girl and Della Goodren.

The concert is free and will replayed by Network Ten on Christmas Day.

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New Home For VIP Squadron

Work has started on a massive new maintenance hangar at RAAF base Fairbairn.

The new hangar will accommodate the RAAF's new VIP fleet of two Boeing 737 business jets and three smaller Challenger executive jets.

With a span of 97 metres and a clearance of 23 metres at its highest point, the hangar will be one of the biggest column free spaces in Canberra. It is 65% bigger than the Qantas maintenance hangar in the Brindabella Business Park.

The new hangar replaces infrastructure that was built in the 1940's and is no longer capable of meeting the requirements of today's transcontinental jet aircraft.

Other features include:

- Heated floor space and imported fabric doors to allow flexibility of access to the movement area without exposing the maintenance area to the elements and,
- Internal office and maintenance workshops to allow for the storage of aircraft seats and long-range belly tanks.

The hangar space enables two aircraft to be in maintenance at any one time and the remaining three aircraft stored undercover overnight for security reasons.

Star Performer

The Caltex 'Star Mart' service centre on Tyson Drive has won an MBA Excellence award for environmental best practice. According to proprietor, Peter Taylor, the service centre is "more impressive for what you don't see rather than what you do see." It includes hazard prevention systems that:

– Monitors and immediately identifies fuel tank fractures;
– In the event of a tank rupture returns spillage to the main fuel tanks;
– Contains all fuel system controls within the sales area enabling operators to affect a quick response to faults or breakdowns.

Taylor also notes that there is no grease trap within the centre. "The grease is directed to the car wash recycle system where it's treated more effectively." In addition, the car wash has a fully recycled waste water system where 80% of the water is reused after treatment. The heating and cooling of the sales building is geo-thermal which works on the principle that the core ground temperature is around 16 degrees throughout the year. A series of 14 pipes has been installed to 100m below ground level and water is then pumped through these pipes to four ceiling units. "A remarkable energy saving system," says Taylor.

A SENSELESS ACT

On or around Sunday 27 October, thieves senselessly desecrated a Canberra Memorial that honours RAAF servicemen and women who served their country in war and conflict.

They tore out and stole 13 mature trees lining the grove leading to the Memorial cairn.

Set in tranquil bush just off the Federal Highway close to Majura Lane, the Memorial records the proud history of many units that served at RAAF Base Fairbairn.

For the 250 members of the local RAAF Association, the callous attack could not have occurred at a worse time. The Memorial Grove was about to dedicate a commemorative plaque for 36 Transport Squadron which operated at Fairbairn for three years from 1955 and recently evacuated 67 Australians and other nationals injured on Bali.

When news of the attack was reported in The Canberra Times, Terry Snow, Executive Chairman of Canberra International Airport, immediately offered help. An Airport team led by grounds foreman Mathew Beveridge restored and cleaned the damaged landscape, located replacement trees and planted them. "The speed with which the work was done left us speechless," said Arthur Skimin, Vice President of the RAAF Association. "We were still coming to terms with the senseless act and before we knew it the job was done."

Photos courtesy of A.C. Elizabeth Ginn, RAAF Richmond

On Saturday, 23 November, veterans and serving officers from 36 Transport Squadron witnessed the dedication of a plaque commemorating its place in the history of RAAF Base Fairbairn.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES DROPS IN FOR ADVANCED PILOT TRAINING

Singapore Airlines pilots will be regular visitors to Canberra International Airport as part of their Advanced Training regime, now being undertaken in Australia.

The airline's pilots will operate new Lear jet L45 twin-engine executive jets into Canberra on a regular basis as part of their training programme from the Singapore Flying College's new Advanced Training Facility in Maroochydore, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. The Lear jets, valued at almost $30 million each, will become a regular sight at Canberra Airport; sometimes landing up to twice a day, as senior pilots undertake training to further develop their skills for handling larger passenger aircraft in the airline's international fleet. Singapore Airlines' Public Relations Manager South West Pacific, Stephen Forshaw said Canberra International Airport was an ideal location for the aircraft to call at on a regular basis.

"Canberra is perfect. It has an excellent Airport with very good infrastructure, simulating an environment we can expect at many international airports around the world. The weather is varied and provides our pilots with a good cross-section of seasonal conditions.

"Our pilots, recruited from around the world, will travel to the Sunshine Coast for up to six weeks at a time. Apart from simulator training, they will also use the Lear jet aircraft to gain further experience in all sorts of conditions, terrain and weather.

"Singapore Airlines decided to relocate its Advanced Pilot Training Facility from Singapore to the Sunshine Coast after an exhaustive search for locations around the world. The key factors included the availability of airspace for training flights and access to suitable airports with good infrastructure for pilots to develop their skills," Mr Forshaw said.

TRALEE DEVELOPMENT IS ASKING FOR TROUBLE SAYS LABOR

"Tralee makes no sense and will only bring trouble."

Federal Labor has called on the NSW government to "do whatever it takes" to stop the proposed residential development of rural property at Tralee.

"Queanbeyan City Council is currently considering the proposal but common sense clearly recognises that any residential development of this land ignores the known impact of the Airport's operations on residents," the Shadow Minister for Regional and Urban Development, Transport, Infrastructure and Tourism, Martin Ferguson said.

"Council clearly knows the likely outcome of building 2000 homes on this land and I urge the New South Wales Government to stop this proposal going any further."

Tralee is rural zoned land directly under the Airport's Main Southern Jet Departure Flight path.

A residential development at Tralee would result in significant conflict between Airport operations and community safety and comfort for new residents and eventually those in Jerrabomberra.

"Put very plainly, the Tralee residential development plan makes no sense and will only bring trouble. I call on the New South Wales Government to ensure that this information and experience is not ignored."

Mr Ferguson commended the actions of the Airport owners to publicise and develop their expectations about the future impact of aircraft noise on surrounding communities.

Land use and development decisions must consider existing and future community infrastructure requirements to minimise conflict between Airport operations and community safety and comfort when they are foreseen.

Touch down.

COVER STORY

"This award puts Canberra and its Airport firmly on the nation's aviation map," said Byron. "In a very real sense, it means we have arrived as a major driver of economic activity."

ACT Chief Minister, John Stanhope, congratulated Airport management and said the award acknowledges the key role the Airport plays as a first class gateway to the nation's capital city.

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"The award demonstrates that Canberra International Airport knows how to do it right and can lead the Australian industry," he said.

"For us to continue to develop as a vibrant commercial and tourist destination, the face we present to the world is extremely important. Canberra International Airport is now a gateway to the region of which any city could be proud."

The award recognised the Airport for 15 initiatives, projects and developments that took place within the last 12 months.

According to the judges, the Brindabella Business Park was the Airport's most successful and innovative project because it attracted businesses that, in almost every case, are complementary to the aviation industry.

Chairman of the independent judging panel, Bill Forrest, said "The initiative to build the Business Park by the Airport owner before any tenants were found is to be applauded, particularly as potential tenants would not commit until the actual bricks and mortar were in place. Air travel convenience has been a major factor in attracting tenants, as well as synergies with other tenants in a real park-like environment that was formerly a monthly grazing lease," he said.

Forrest was also particularly impressed with the Airport's management of its runway extensions.

"The runway widening at this Airport was psychologically important, creating the ultimate opportunity for 747 aircraft operations. The Airport's ability to manage this project makes it even more noteworthy. Time restraints for Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and Airport traffic meant working at night in winter."

Judges also favourably noted the completion of the Qantas maintenance hangar despite the demise of Ansett Airlines.

"This Airport is very much a local business, owned and operated by a local family, with a sense of pride and commitment to the city it serves."

AIRPORT SECURITY STRENGTHENED

Security at Canberra International Airport has been tightened following the tragic bomb blast on Bali.

Under the new security arrangements, vehicles accessing the Airport on Terminal Circuit immediately in front of the terminal building are only permitted to drop off travellers and visitors. Vehicles are not allowed under any circumstances to park or wait to pick up passengers.

"This new arrangement is effective immediately and will be strictly enforced by Australian Protective Services and Airport carpark staff," Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, said. Taxis are not directly affected.

"In light of events on Bali and recent threats to infrastructure in Australia we have carefully reassessed all aspects of our security. While I regret the fact that these new measures may inconvenience some they are now absolutely essential."

The new security measures also include increased surveillance inside the terminal building. Unattended luggage and packages are closely monitored and litter bins are checked on a regular basis.

School Builds "A Sense Of Community"

The Airport's Park School for Early Learning has celebrated its first anniversary.

Staff, parents and children got together on November 19 to cut a cake and celebrate what school Director, Evelyn Callaghan described as "a fantastic year."

Built by the Airport at a cost of around $1.5 million, the school accommodates up to 86 students and is run by 18 highly qualified staff.

"We have had a remarkable year," Callaghan said. "Far better than we could have imagined. There is a very real sense of community starting to build in the Brindabella Business Park as more buildings appear we get more inquiries from parents."

The Park School for Early Learning has a limited number of spaces available for next year and priority will be given to Brindabella Business Park employees.