

Alpha's new Canberra kitchen

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The Shadow Minister for Information Technology, Sport, Recreation and the Arts, Senator Kate Lundy, officially opened Alpha Flight Services new kitchen at Canberra International Airport on Monday May 3.

Built at a cost of \$1.6 million, the new kitchen employs 35 local staff and makes a major contribution to a national catering business that produces 80,000 airline meals a week. Alpha provides in flight meals to all Qantas aircraft leaving Canberra, Brindabella Airlines and the VIP fleet that carries the Prime Minister and senior Ministers.

Alpha's Canberra kitchen produces approximately 14,500 meals a week – that's equal to around 300 cooked meals and 700 sandwiches a day. In a typical week, it consumes 150kg of chicken, 250 loaves of bread, 600 cartons of milk and 35kgs of salmon. And for those with a sweet tooth throw in 500 Mars Bars a day.

Featuring five cool rooms, a deep freeze and storeroom for perishables, the new kitchen is three times the size of the one it replaces. "Canberra International Airport is one of our biggest and busiest facilities," says Peter Smith, Managing Director

of Alpha Flight Services Pty Ltd. "Our Canberra kitchen caters for a wide range of international VIPs including the Prime Ministers of Portugal and Greece, members of the Japanese Royal Family and our own Prime Minister."

The opening of Alpha's new catering operation represents an important vote of confidence in the Airport's aviation support sectors, says Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron. It was yet another example of how modern city airports can attract businesses, grow jobs and drive economic activity, he said.

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It also fits plans to further accelerate redevelopment of the Airport's aviation support sector. "Work is well under way on a \$2 million infrastructure project for the Airport's rental car businesses," says Byron. This project will enable Avis and Hertz to construct new offices and car parking grounds.



Mazda zooms into Business Park

Brindabella Business Park was chosen as one of the Canberra backdrops for a new Mazda 6 TV commercial aired nationally during May.

Police temporarily closed Brindabella Circuit while Mazda put its 6 series sedan through its paces for the camera.

"It was a great location," says Simon Hoy of Hub Productions. "The fact that there wasn't too much signage everywhere meant we could promote Mazda without too much competition. We were blown away by the quality of the park just metres from the terminal."

The 30-second commercial filmed in a day featured scenic shots of 'Dunrossil Drive' leading to the Governor General's residence and scenes around Parliament House.

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Bula! Canberra to Fiji non-stop

Air Pacific's decision to launch a non-stop service between Canberra and Fiji is a milestone event for Canberra International Airport and signals a new era in affordable and convenient travel for the region, says Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron.



"It's our first scheduled direct international service and we will do all that we can to ensure its success," he says. "I urge all our customers to support and take advantage of a wonderful new service that will enable them to fly direct to their South Pacific holiday destination without the inconvenience and costly delays of changing aircraft in Sydney."



Airport Executive Chairman, Terry Snow with Fiji's High Commissioner Jioji Konrote.

Starting July 1, Air Pacific will fly twice weekly between Canberra and Nadi – departing Canberra at 1.30pm on Sunday and Thursday. Flying time of around 4 hours means a convenient Fiji arrival and transfer to resorts.

Operating 'new generation' Boeing 737-700 aircraft, the new Canberra to Nadi services will also provide favourable connections with Air Pacific's services from Fiji to Honolulu, Los Angeles and Vancouver.



"Congratulations to Stephen Byron and the team on realising their vision to become a truly International Airport. Direct flights will open more opportunities in education, sport, business and trade."

Claire Brown, Executive Director of the ACT and region Tourism Industry Council.

"We will make a significant investment in new Airport infrastructure and help promote Air Pacific's new services to the region," Byron says. About \$1.6 million has been set aside to provide new facilities in the common-user terminal for Customs, Passport Control and Quarantine Inspectors.

"We have agreed to provide terminal and airside facilities free of charge. If we are to promote the development of direct international services from Canberra we, and the community, are going to have to get behind the airlines in a meaningful way. This is our commitment toward positioning Canberra as a true international destination."

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Airport rush hour

Thick fog in Sydney diverts international and domestic flights to Canberra.



Next stop New Zealand

Airport 2004 Master Plan foreshadows New Zealand flights within 18 months.



Anything but ordinary

Vast new VIP Hangar opens for business.

Next stop New Zealand

"We will continue to provide the appropriate financial resources to encourage start up routes like we did with Fiji, Perth, the Gold Coast and Newcastle."

Direct international flights to New Zealand are foreshadowed within the next 12 to 18 months according to Canberra International Airport's new 2004 Master Plan.

Released on May 24 for public comment, the 2004 Master Plan says several airlines are "actively investigating" direct routes from Canberra and predicts a twice-weekly service to Auckland. The Master Plan aims to establish the planning concepts that will guide the flexible development of the Airport over the next 20 years. It predicts that passenger numbers will grow to 5.2 million a year by 2024, of which around 250,000 will be international passengers.

The 2004 Master Plan reveals that 2,075,000 passengers passed through the Airport last year, an increase of 10.4% over 2002. It says annual passenger numbers are expected to grow to more than 2.3 million during 2003/04 because of fare discounting, increased services and the introduction of bigger Qantas aircraft.

Managing Director, Stephen Byron says the Airport will continue to prioritise the expansion of routes serving Canberra.

"We will continue to provide the appropriate financial resources to encourage start up routes like we did with Fiji, Perth, the Gold Coast and Newcastle."

Byron predicts the direct international service to New Zealand will become a daily flight within five years.

"Like our new service to Fiji, the Auckland service will make true 'one-stop' flights to Los Angeles, San Francisco and other North American cities via New Zealand and Pacific Hubs."

In the medium term, the Master Plan says that routes to an Asian hub such as Singapore or Bangkok are likely within five to ten years, including holiday destinations like Bali. These Asian routes would connect with the wave of 'one-stop' flights to major European cities.

In the longer term, 15-20 years, the Master Plan points to direct flights to Hawaii, Los Angeles and Hong Kong, Tokyo and Beijing.

The Master Plan underscores the need for a terminal upgrade to accommodate dedicated departure and arrivals halls with full customs and immigration facilities. It says the length of runways will also need to be upgraded to allow for longer-range aircraft. The runways will also require strengthening for VIP flights.

"Recent capacity and frequency increases, the expansion of new markets because of lower fares and new routes as well as the robust growth of the

ACT and regional economy, has led to improved prospects for the growth of aviation services into Canberra," says Byron.

"However, aviation remains a risky business. Rising oil prices, terrorism, SARS and the financial viability of the airlines are all factors beyond our control. This is why we are taking advantage of the current climate to further strengthen our relationship with the airlines and maintain our high level of investment in Airport infrastructure," he says.

Copies of the Preliminary Draft Master Plan are available for viewing or purchase from the Airport Management Office, First Floor, 2 Brindabella Circuit, Canberra Airport.

Canberra's Major Routes

	1998/1999	2003/2004	Growth
Adelaide	93,155	168,535	+ 80.9%
Brisbane	184,582	405,584	+ 119.7%
Melbourne	697,571	781,654	+ 12.1%
Sydney	836,122	837,670	+ 0.1%

Anything but ordinary

"The hangar is important because it provides a permanent and secure home for the VIP fleet."

The new VIP hangar at Fairbairn is not ordinary by any measure.

It's wide, nearly 100 metres or the equivalent of a football field. It's high, 26 metres or eight stories at its centre and it's deep spanning some 73 metres, spacious enough to accommodate a 747.

Its state of the art design features a distinctive stress erected structural steel arched roof. Roll formed on site, the roof sheets that span the hangar's arch are the longest in the country.

Director of Projects at Canberra International Airport, Ben Rayner says the project is special because of its unique ability to house five fully fuelled operational passenger aircraft.

"The hangar is important because it provides a permanent and secure home for the VIP fleet."

The VIP hangar and nearby VIP Reception Centre is purpose built to house the Federal Government's new generation transcontinental aircraft – two Boeing Business Jets, and three Bombardier Challenger 604s.

It also has up to the minute fire fighting technology. An underground storage tank containing more than 1 million litres of water, captured from the roof run-off, drives a special fire foam system installed in the hangar floor. In addition, strategically positioned

detectors can detect smoke and flame even under the wings and fuselage of the aircraft.

In the event of power failure, an 890 KVA diesel generator will provide standby power to ensure that VIP operations are not compromised.

Two overhead gantry cranes, each capable of lifting five tonnes, run the full length of the hangar and a two storey annex at its rear accommodates stores, workshops and amenity areas for Defence and Qantas Defence Support personnel.

The VIP Reception Centre is designed to provide secure facilities for visiting Heads of State. It includes offices for Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Inspection and VIP lounge.

In addition to a guardhouse for around the clock security, an extended and strengthened apron will handle visiting 747s and all five VIP aircraft at any one time.

Other key construction facts

Project Managed by Construction Control Pty Ltd.

Architects Daryl Jackson & Alastair Swain in association with AMC Projects
Total Structural Steel content was 250 tonnes
More than 6,000 cubic metres tonnes of concrete used in the construction of the hangar and floors.

Airport rush hour

At one stage, a total of seventeen aircraft were on the tarmac.

A thick autumn fog in Sydney on Tuesday May 6 gave Canberra International Airport a rare chance to demonstrate its capability as both a national and international destination.

Nine aircraft were diverted to Canberra at short notice. All touched down smoothly during the morning peak hour with the first arriving at 6.50am and the final departing Canberra by 10.30am. Of the nine diverted aircraft, three were international flights - two Boeing 747s on their way from Los Angeles and London and a Boeing 767 from Christchurch, New Zealand.

At one stage, a total of seventeen aircraft were on the tarmac.

The Chief Operations Manager, Richard Doyle says he is very pleased at the way Airport staff handled the rush.

"We were required to refuel some of the larger international flights, provide escort services and liaise with the tower to assist pilots unfamiliar with the region plus manage our own busy peak hour traffic," Doyle says.

