



ACT & REGION  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE  
& INDUSTRY

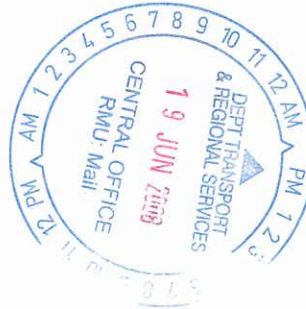
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18 June 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

### National Aviation Policy Statement

The ACT Chamber Of Commerce recognises that air transport is critical to the success of Canberra businesses and thus thanks you for the opportunity to comment on National Aviation Policy Statement. Ample air transport links, by both passengers and freight, are essential to an economy such as that of Canberra.

As such, the Chamber is very supportive of aviation growth into Canberra and is opposed to a curfew or any other flight restrictions into Canberra. Such restrictions would only serve to limit air transport connections, which would be detrimental to Canberra businesses and the Canberra economy. Of particular concern in relation to the introduction of a curfew or other flight restrictions is the limitation on international and freight growth.

Unlike other capital cities around Australia, Canberra Airport is unique in only having a very small number of residents under flight paths. We know of no other airport in Australia with almost entirely rural approach and departure paths. The development of any restrictions on the airport does not make sense when Canberra is in such a unique situation.

The Chamber is highly supportive of the development of freight transport linkages as outlined in both the existing and the new draft Master Plan. The development of a freight hub would be a tremendous driver for Canberra businesses as it would mean that Canberra businesses could courier documents until late into the night for next day delivery - in addition to the direct employment benefits. This would be a significant competitive advantage over other capital cities, and would be expected to lead to the development of Just-In-Time type businesses and overnight delivery businesses such as e-businesses. All of these industries are generally high value added industries and would particularly benefit from Canberra's highly educated workforce.

Similarly, the Chamber is highly supportive of the development of international air routes into Canberra. This would greatly increase international accessibility into Canberra and would be highly advantageous for Canberra businesses, particularly those in export market. It is likely that a significant proportion of these international flights would operate late at night and early in the morning. A curfew would restrict these flights.

The Chamber strongly supports Canberra International Airport and looks forward to the continued growth in aviation into the Nation's Capital.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Peters', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher Peters AM  
Chief Executive