



Secretary

Contact: *Alexandra Pamment*

Mr Stephen Byron
Managing Director
Canberra Airport
2 Brindabella Circuit
BRINDABELLA BUSINESS PARK ACT 2609


Dear Mr Byron

Canberra Airport Parallel Runway

Thank you for your letter dated 2 July 2012 about the proposal for a parallel runway at Canberra Airport.

I note Canberra Airport's 2009-2029 Master Plan projects that the airport's runways will reach capacity between 2050 and 2060 and extended limitations on the availability of the runways for non-priority flight operations are expected to continue until additional runway capacity is introduced.

It would not be appropriate for the Department to express a view on the proposal for a parallel runway pending completion of a statutory process by Canberra Airport for its 2014-2034 draft Master Plan. The Minister takes the matter of public consultation seriously and, in making a decision on the draft Master Plan, will have regard to the analysis and consultation undertaken on the proposed parallel runway and how the airport has addressed any concerns raised about this proposal.

In preparation for the draft Master Plan, I strongly encourage ongoing government and community engagement on the proposal at meetings of Canberra Airport's Planning Coordination Forum (PCF) and Community Aviation Consultation Group.

I recognise negotiations between Canberra Airport, the Department of Defence, the Department of Finance and Deregulation and my department would be necessary for any planned expansion of the airport, including development of a parallel runway. I am also aware the Department of Defence is not currently represented on Canberra Airport's PCF and suggest its involvement in this forum would facilitate constructive ongoing discussion on the proposal.

Section 22

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, they can be directed to Ms Leonie Horrocks, General Manager Airports on 02 6274 7810 or via email: <leonie.horrocks@infrastructure.gov.au>.

Yours sincerely


Mike Mrdak

18 July 2012