

## **EMBARGOED**

**3pm Tuesday 7 April 2009**

### **Canberra Business Council welcomes launch of new airport terminal**

Canberra Business Council fully supports the launch today of the new Southern Concourse Terminal – the first stage of development for the new Terminal at Canberra Airport.

Canberra Business Council sees this development as integral for building Canberra’s capacity to provide world-class facilities that are appropriate for the nation’s capital.

“As the Capital of Australia, Canberra deserves world class terminal facilities which emphasise the uniqueness and national role of the city, serving to draw in and welcome new business and leisure visitors,” Chris Faulks, CEO of Canberra Business Council said today.

“This project, which represents a major investment in the local economy, will also be a major boost for Canberra during the current economic downturn,” Ms Faulks said. “The terminal project is of vital importance to the economic growth of Canberra and the surrounding ACT Region.”

“Canberra Airport is forecast to grow significantly from the current 2.85 million passengers a year,” Ms Faulks said. “The Airport is also projecting the eventual start of a range of direct international flights. The new routes, combined with greater passenger numbers from expansion of existing routes, will raise Canberra’s prominence, giving the city a true international airport to match its status as the Nation’s Capital, not to mention increasing tourism opportunities and thus boosting revenue and jobs for local businesses.”

Ms Faulks said the projects at the airport will deliver over 300 on-site jobs, with more jobs off-site and associated with the ongoing operation of the Airport.

Ms Faulks also commended Canberra Airport management’s ongoing commitment to “green” building with the Southern Concourse Terminal expected to reduce carbon emissions by 75% compared with the current building by incorporating Trigeneration Technology.

The Southern Concourse Terminal is part of a \$350 million investment in projects to develop Canberra Airport, incorporating the recently completed airport gateway road intersection, the new jet aircraft positions and increased multi-deck car parking facility under construction and a later Western Concourse Terminal.

#### **Contact :**

**Chris Faulks | CEO | Canberra Business Council | 0421 994 488 | 6247 4199**