



Dr Jane Thomson, Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Thomson

### **Inquiry into Airports Amendment Bill 2016**

Thank you for your letter to Ms Kathy Leigh, of 10 February 2017, inviting this Directorate to make a submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry into the Airports Amendment Bill 2016 (the Bill). Ms Leigh, as ACT Head of Service, has asked me to provide a response to you on behalf of the ACT Government.

I note that the Canberra Airport covers a larger catchment area, and fulfils a more strategic role, than most other secondary airports. For this reason, the ACT Government has made it a priority to maintain and build upon its close working relationship with the Airport. This close relationship facilitates ongoing discussion of the Airport's development plans, and any ACT Planning implications, as well as relevant off-airport matters.

The ACT Government therefore supports all proposed amendments. The proposed amendments to increase Airport Master Plan cycles for secondary airports, and to increase the monetary trigger for Major Development Plans, are considered sensible measures to streamline on-airport operations. The ACT Government has no comment to offer on the associated proposed changes in the Bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to consider the proposed amendments to the Airports Act. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me on 6207 8884.

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Rutledge  
Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Cabinet  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government  
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6 March 2017