ALICE SPRINGS AIRPORT MASTER PLAN APPROVED

I have approved Alice Springs Airport’s 2010 Master Plan which sets out its strategic direction and intended uses for the next 20 years.

The airport is a key economic driver for Alice Springs and a vital piece of infrastructure for Central Australia.

Over 600,000 passengers used Alice Springs Airport in 2009 and this number is expected to grow to over 900,000 by 2029.

The airport supports over 1700 jobs on site and in the local tourism industry.

The Alice Springs Airport Master Plan provides for investment in new aeronautical infrastructure to meet the expected growth in demand over the next 20 years. Proposed future developments include a new turning loop for the main runway and expansion of the passenger terminal and aprons.

Alice Springs Airport is Australia’s largest at 3,550 hectares and the Master Plan includes a proposal to transfer 349 hectares of airport land to the Northern Territory Government for residential development. This proposal is strongly supported by the Northern Territory Government and the Alice Springs Town Council.

The Department advises that excising part of the airport site for residential development will not impact on long term aviation activity at the airport. The proposed development is well away from flight paths and is not within the aircraft noise contours which are based on long term growth forecasts for the airport.

As this proposal is developed, I expect appropriate consultation to occur with the Commonwealth, Northern Territory and local governments, and the community.

Consistent with Caretaker Conventions I have consulted with the Opposition and they agree with the approval of the Master Plan.

Alice Springs Airport has 50 business days to make its Master Plan public.

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