

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

Hobart Airport Submission on the adequacy of Australia's infrastructure assets and capability in Antarctica

In 2015-16 the contribution of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean (ASO) sector contributed \$180.6 million to Tasmania's GSP and directly employed 755 FTEs. This is according to a 2016 analysis published in the Wells Report on economic benefits of the ASO sector, and commissioned by the Tasmanian Polar Network, of which the Hobart Airport is a member.

The sector is set to expand in the next 5 years with significant investment in various areas including aviation. Of significance to Australia's capability in Antarctica are the following associated infrastructure projects:

- the Hobart Airport runway extension, which will provide capacity for larger aircraft servicing Antarctica and expanded Antarctic aviation opportunities
- The new deployment of the RAAF C17 Globemaster for the Australian Antarctic program. Government should confirm the continuing development of the passenger jet and heavy lift capability by supporting the development of associated infrastructure in Hobart and further developing the Wilkins blue ice runway and facilities in Antarctica.
- In relation to future airfield development Government should take seriously the development of a second, year round runway near Davis Station to provide leadership in international aviation access to East Antarctica. Such a development would enable the Hobart gateway and Hobart Airport to be further developed into an international Antarctic aviation hub and offer opportunities for other national programs from China, India and others to operate their programs through Hobart. This would strengthen our Antarctic gateway and provide substantial additional economic benefit to Tasmania and Australia. The Hobart Airport's runway extension program and associated federal funding would be maximised as a result. Hobart Airport is currently investigating the feasibility of developing associated infrastructure at the airport to support Antarctic and freight operations.

Hobart Airport would be pleased to answer any further questions on the subject of Antarctic aviation capability as it relates to associated infrastructure at Hobart Airport.

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Interim CEO
Hobart Airport

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