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Chief Ministers Talkback Brief
ISSUE: Williamsdale Airfield Allegations

Updated: 11 December 2012

Minister responsible:	Directorate:	Contact Officer:
Minister for Economic Development	Economic Development	Chris Beer x59889

KEY POINTS

- A website (<http://canberrasecondairport.com/>) has recently been launched and alleges that 'a few key ACT Government officers are stunningly incompetent or corrupt' in relation to their handling of proposals to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield at Williamsdale.
- The website is also critical of your and Minister Barr's involvements with the matter.
- In July 2012, you responded to a letter from [REDACTED] (an associate of the website's author) where the former also made allegations about the conduct of public servants and elected representatives, and in doing so you advised him that if he wanted to pursue these claims further, he should contact the ACT Ombudsman.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The author of the website is a Mr David Edmunds, who along with an associate, [REDACTED], and others, have advocated since 2004 for the Government to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield for the ACT.
 - The website revolves around FOI documents sourced by [REDACTED], and other correspondence.
 - While discussions between the airfield's proponents and the Government ran for a number of years, [REDACTED] grievance most recently stems from a decision made in 2011 to not support their proposal following a report from Deloitte Access Economics (commissioned by the Government). The study, which was publicly released, found that the development of an airfield at Williamsdale would generate a positive rate of return but not sufficient to attract private sector investment.
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Chief Ministers Talkback Brief
ISSUE: Williamsdale Airfield Allegations

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- It is understood that at least one of the public servants named on the website has commenced representation through a legal firm.

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Chief Ministers Talkback Brief
ISSUE: Williamsdale Airfield Allegations

Updated: 1 February 2013

Minister responsible:	Directorate:	Contact Officer:
Minister for Economic Development	Economic Development	Chris Beer x59889

KEY POINTS

- A website (<http://canberrasecondairport.com/>) has recently been launched and alleges that 'a few key ACT Government officers are stunningly incompetent or corrupt' in relation to their handling of proposals to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield at Williamsdale. The website is also critical of your and Minister Barr's involvements with the matter.
- The author of the website is a [REDACTED] who along with an associate, [REDACTED], and others, have advocated since 2004 for the Government to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield for the ACT.
- While discussions between the airfield's proponents and the Government ran for a number of years, [REDACTED] grievance most recently stems from a decision made in 2011 to not support their proposal.
- It is understood that at least one of the public servants named on the website has commenced representation through a legal firm.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- This decision was made following a report from Deloitte Access Economics (commissioned by the Government). The report found that although the development of an airfield at Williamsdale would generate a positive rate of return, it would not be sufficient to attract private sector investment.
 - In July 2012, you responded to a letter from [REDACTED] which made allegations about the conduct of public servants and elected representatives. The letter advised that if he wanted to pursue these claims further, he should contact the ACT Ombudsman.
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Chief Ministers Talkback Brief
ISSUE: Second Airport - Williamsdale

000012

Updated: 1 March 2013

Minister responsible:	Directorate:	Contact Officer:
Minister for Economic Development	Economic Development	Chris Beer x59889

KEY POINTS

- A website (<http://canberrasecondairport.com/>) has recently been launched and alleges that 'a few key ACT Government officers are stunningly incompetent or corrupt' in relation to their handling of proposals to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield at Williamsdale. The website is also critical of your and Minister Barr's involvements with the matter.
- The author of the website is [REDACTED] who along with an associate, [REDACTED], and others, have advocated since 2004 for the Government to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield for the ACT.
- While discussions between the airfield's proponents and the Government ran for a number of years, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] grievance most recently stems from a decision made in 2011 to not support their proposal.
- It is understood that at least one of the public servants named on the website has commenced representation through a legal firm.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The 2011 decision was made following a report from Deloitte Access Economics (commissioned by the Government). The report found that although the development of an airfield at Williamsdale would generate a positive rate of return, it would not be sufficient to attract private sector investment.
 - In July 2012, you responded to a letter from [REDACTED] which made allegations about the conduct of public servants and elected representatives. The letter advised that if he wanted to pursue these claims further, he should contact the ACT Ombudsman.
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Chief Ministers Talkback Brief
ISSUE: Second Airport - Williamsdale

00001\

Updated: 19 March 2013

Minister responsible:	Directorate:	Contact Officer:
Minister for Economic Development	Economic Development	Chris Beer x59889

KEY POINTS

- A website (<http://canberrasecondairport.com/>) was launched in late-2012 alleging that 'a few key ACT Government officers are stunningly incompetent or corrupt' in relation to their handling of proposals to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield at Williamsdale. The website is also critical of your and Minister Barr's involvements with the matter.
- The author of the website is a [REDACTED] who along with an associate, [REDACTED], and others, have advocated since 2004 for the Government to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield for the ACT.
- While discussions between the airfield's proponents and the Government ran for a number of years, [REDACTED] and grievance most recently stems from a decision made in 2011 to not support their proposal.
- It is understood that at least one of the public servants named on the website has commenced representation through a legal firm.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The 2011 decision was made following a report from Deloitte Access Economics (commissioned by the Government). The report found that although the development of an airfield at Williamsdale would generate a positive rate of return, it would not be sufficient to attract private sector investment.
 - In July 2012, you responded to a letter from [REDACTED] which made allegations about the conduct of public servants and elected representatives. The letter advised that if he wanted to pursue these claims further, he should contact the ACT Ombudsman.
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Chief Ministers Talkback Brief

ISSUE: Second Airport - Williamsdale

Updated: 27 March 2013

Minister responsible:	Directorate:	Contact Officer:
Minister for Economic Development	Economic Development	Chris Beer x59889

KEY POINTS

- A website (<http://canberrasecondairport.com/>) was launched in late-2012 alleging that 'a few key ACT Government officers are stunningly incompetent or corrupt' in relation to their handling of proposals to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield at Williamsdale. The website is also critical of your and Minister Barr's involvements with the matter.
- The author of the website [REDACTED] who along with an associate, [REDACTED], and others, have advocated since 2004 for the Government to develop a general aviation and emergency services airfield for the ACT.
- While discussions between the airfield's proponents and the Government ran for a number of years, [REDACTED] grievance most recently stems from a decision made in 2011 to not support their proposal.
- It is understood that at least one of the public servants named on the website has commenced representation through a legal firm.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The 2011 decision was made following a report from Deloitte Access Economics (commissioned by the Government). The report found that although the development of an airfield at Williamsdale would generate a positive rate of return, it would not be sufficient to attract private sector investment.
 - In July 2012, you responded to a letter from [REDACTED] which made allegations about the conduct of public servants and elected representatives. The letter advised that if he wanted to pursue these claims further, he should contact the ACT Ombudsman.
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Beer, Chris

To:
Subject: Canberra Construction Snapshot
Attachments: Construction Snapshot template.xls

Dear :

Thank you for the Canberra Airport's ongoing contribution to the *Canberra Construction Snapshot*. We are currently updating the Snapshot in preparation for the release of the next edition.

The value of the Snapshot lies in the integrity of its data. Therefore, it would be appreciated if you could please advise if:

- you have any planned projects or projects already in progress worth \$1,000,000 or more; and
- the anticipated completion date of any planned or ongoing project.

Where possible, it would be appreciated if you could also provide a street address or block and section reference for each project so the project can be mapped on the Snapshot website (http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/infrastructure_and_construction/construction_snapshot).

If you have any information to provide, could you please send it to Andrew Mehrton at andrew.mehrton@act.gov.au by **COB Thursday, 4 April 2013**?

Please do not hesitate to contact Andrew on 6205 8507 if you have queries regarding the nature of the data requested or on any other matter concerning the Snapshot.

Regards,

David Dawes
Director-General, Economic Development Directorate
Phone 02 6207 3331 | Fax 02 6205 0386
Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government
Level 7 TransACT House, 470 Northbourne Ave, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 |
www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au

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

Dear

2013 Update to the ACT Government Infrastructure Plan

I am writing to invite the Canberra Airport to consider providing input into the 2013 update of the *ACT Government Infrastructure Plan*.

The ACT Government recognises the important role the private sector plays in providing infrastructure in the Territory. Accordingly, we are interested in any key infrastructure projects your organisation have undertaken recently or may be undertaking over the next ten years and which might be included in the Plan.

Specifically, it would be appreciated if you could provide an outline of any such project(s) (of 150 to 200 words per project, plus possibly an image) that you would be comfortable being used in this publically available document.

The 2013 Plan update will appear online. The current *ACT Government Infrastructure Plan 2011-21* and further background information is available at:
http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/infrastructure_and_construction/act_government_infrastructure_plan.

If you are willing to provide input as per the above, text should be provided in Microsoft Word format, and in 'j-peg' (jpg) form for images, by **Friday 19 April 2013**.

Please provide your text and images to Ms Jessica Hanigan on 6205 0896 or jessica.hanigan@act.gov.au. Ms Hanigan is also available to answer any other queries you may have in relation to this letter or the broader Plan update.

Yours sincerely

David Dawes
Director-General
Economic Development Directorate
ACT Government

March 2013

BRIEF

**ACT**

Government

Economic Development

Ref:BM12/1233

SUBJECT: Complaints about the process for considering a proposal for a general aviation and emergency services airfield at Williamsdale

To: Chief Minister

- Minister for Economic Development *AB 3.7.12*
- Director-General, Economic Development Directorate *D 22/6/12*
- Deputy Director-General, Economic Development, Policy & Governance Division

From: A/g Executive Director, Ministerial, Cabinet and Policy

Date: 25 June 2012

Purpose

To brief you and seek your signature to the attached letter to a correspondent) unhappy that the Government has not previously supported a proposal to develop an airfield at Williamsdale and who alleges misconduct by public servants.

Background

first proposed that a general aviation and emergency services airfield be developed at Williamsdale in 2004.

More recently, in 2011 the Government commissioned a study by Deloitte Access Economics into the potential economic viability of such an airfield. This study built on a previous 2010 report by the same consultants commissioned by the Canberra Region Aviators Association (CRRRA), which was formed specifically to lobby for the development.

The study found that development of an airfield at Williamsdale would generate a positive rate of return but not sufficient to attract private sector investment. It also should be noted that pursuing the proposal would require the resumption of leases and entail other land management issues.

In September 2011, the Minister for Economic Development publically released the Deloitte Study and determined that the Government would not provide further support for the proposal. The study and accompanying brief is at Attachment A.

Issues

On 2 March 2012, submitted a Freedom of Information request in relation to the proposal. In response, EDD, CMCD and ESDD (ACTPLA) released documentation to The Decision and released documents have been de-identified and made publicly available on the ACT Government Open Government web site.

In his letter [redacted] advises that he intends to publish, through the electronic and print media and the internet, a history of the proposal, including the names and positions of ACT public servants and politicians involved in the process. [redacted] alleges that documents in his possession raise 'serious questions about the conduct of both wings of the ACT Government' and makes allegations against named and unnamed public servants.

EDD's view is that [redacted] ultimately seeks a review of the September 2011 decision. As there are no compelling grounds to revisit that decision, it is believed that the most appropriate course of action is to note [redacted] allegations and advise him that should he wish to pursue those allegations further, this would best be done through the ACT Ombudsman.

A reply to [redacted] has been prepared on this basis for your signature at Attachment B.

RECOMMENDATION

That you:

- note the information in this brief; and

NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

- sign the attached letter to [redacted]

AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

Louise Gilding

Katy Gallagher 3/7/12
Katy Gallagher MLA

Action Officer: Marty Alsford (x58637)



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COPY

Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 4 June 2012 regarding the ACT Government's consideration of a proposal for a general aviation and emergency services airfield at Williamsdale.

I note your comments about the Government's process with regard to the proposal, including the alleged actions of, and advice provided by, certain public servants. I also note that the Decision letter and related documents in relation to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding this issue have been de-identified and publicly released on the ACT Government Open Government website, http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government.

Should you wish to pursue your allegations further, I suggest that you contact the ACT Ombudsman who is empowered to investigate complaints about the administrative actions of ACT Government agencies. The Ombudsman can be contacted by email ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au or by phone 1300 362072.

Yours sincerely

Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister

5.7.12

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY