Key infrastructure accessibility in the Canberra Region opens the door to developing strong links to national and international markets, growing business investment opportunities in the Canberra Region.

The Canberra Region is serviced by key infrastructure including major road access between Sydney and Melbourne, railways, ports and an international airport, which enable investment in the region and provide access to international markets.

The Canberra Region is also home to political and economic infrastructure, including world-class research and education institutions, which generate significant regional economic activity. Canberra is well known for its world-class research institutions and prestigious internationally ranked universities. International students are able to study and visit their families via the international flights available at Canberra Airport.

**Canberra International Airport**

The recent availability of international flights between Canberra International Airport, Singapore and New Zealand is creating an exciting new era for the Canberra region. Expanded access to international markets is set to drive innovation and rapid growth for the Canberra Region economy in tourism, business and trade.

Canberra International Airport is equipped and ready for long aircraft operations, with a significant competitive advantages created by no aircraft noise curfew, a passenger terminal designed to accommodate growth until 2030, and significant runway capacity.

**The Canberra Region population will reach 680,000 by 2021 and over 750,000 by 2031**

**The Port of Eden is undergoing a $44 million wharf extension.**

Canberra Airport has international flight availability and significant competitive advantages.
The $480 million privately invested on the upgrade is unmatched by any other Australian capital city airport. Additionally, easy ground access for passengers and freight is provided by access to improved road infrastructure and cross-border arterial roads, a master freight precinct has been planned, and surrounding land is available for development.

Canberra is also in close proximity to both Sydney and Melbourne, allowing for goods to be delivered by road freight while still meeting the express delivery service standards of major air freight operators. Canberra Airport has great proximity to the high quality produce of South East NSW.

A 2016 report commissioned by the ACT Government, NSW Government and the Canberra Region Joint Organisation found that expansion of the Canberra Region’s export capabilities has the potential to deliver a boost of nearly $1.2 billion over 15 years to the Canberra Region gross regional product, creating more than 540 jobs.

The City of Goulburn is located on the Great Southern rail route from Sydney to Melbourne. Over 100,000 tonnes are moved through the region per day to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

In December 2015, Goulburn Council approved a Development Application for a Rail Freight Hub in Goulburn. The facility, a collaboration between Chicago Freight Rail Services, Crawfords Freight Liner Logistics and Sydney Rail Services, puts Goulburn on the map as one of the few regional centres with rail freight capabilities. The hub allows businesses in Goulburn and the Tablelands region to distribute and receive containers by rail directly from Port Botany or Port Kembla including logs for export to China, scrap steel headed to Taiwan, and various imports including bulk fertiliser products.

This creates exciting opportunities for investment in the Canberra Region, including growth in accommodation and the hospitality industry to support increasing numbers of international tourists. Domestic and international overnight visitor rates are forecast to increase for the ACT by 2 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

**PORT OF EDEN**

The Port of Eden is the southernmost port in NSW and the only safe deep water port between Sydney and Melbourne. Primarily servicing the surrounding areas of Bega, Merimbula, Bombala and Cooma, Eden is an active working port, with 831,316 tonnes of trade and 68 vessel calls made in 2014-15. The port contains a Navy wharf, a dedicated eight-hectare cargo storage facility, and is home to one of the largest fishing fleets in New South Wales.

A $44 million wharf extension due for completion in 2017 will expand Eden’s capacity to handle cruise ships up to 311m, more bulk freight and more supply vessels for the Bass Strait oilfields. This will deliver significant economic benefits to the region.
The Port of Eden and surrounding Sapphire Coast is also an emerging cruise destination, already observing an increase from 3 to 9 cruise ships for 2015-16, 5 of which arrived at Eden for the first time. The Port is expecting 36 cruise ships in by end 2018. As a result, there is increasing potential to expand tourism offerings in the Coastal Region, which will then create flow-on economic benefits to the wider Canberra Region by attracting return visitors.

As the Port of Eden is also Australia's primary woodchip export site, receiving 21 cargo ships for loggers and wood chippers during 2014-15, the wharf extension will create substantial growth opportunities for the existing Canberra Region timber industry.

**ROAD TRANSPORT CORRIDORS**

Canberra hosts major transport corridors between Sydney and Melbourne which pass directly through the region. Continued developments in transport infrastructure have significantly improved freight access to worldwide markets. The Canberra Region is unique in its advantageous geographic position with the Hume Highway linking Sydney and Melbourne, Australia’s most active business markets and population centres. Connectivity throughout the ACT, NSW and VIC provided by the excellent road infrastructure including the Federal, Snowy Mountains, Princes and Monaro Highways is a competitive advantage to the region, creating cost-effective access to national and international markets.

The recent upgrade of Majura Parkway in the ACT also provides a critical freight corridor between the north and south Canberra and the surrounding region, and connects the Federal Highway to the Monaro Highway. Additionally, The NSW Government recently invested $7.3 million to widen the bridge over the Bemboka River at Moran’s Crossing on the Snowy Mountains Highway, significantly increasing the capacity for heavier vehicles to access the region.

*All information correct at time of printing.*
