



Author's blast from the past

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Saleyard contest hots up

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PRESSURE: Canberra Airport is pushing its case to host a second international facility and high speed rail. Architects Guida Moseley Brown have designed infrastructure the airport's managing director Stephen Byron wants constructed by 2020.

Upping the pressure

By LOUISE THROWER

Canberra airport pushes rail

CANBERRA Airport is ramping up its push to host a second international facility that's reliant on high speed rail.

Managing director Stephen Byron is tapping into community opposition to Badgerys Creek and Wilton as sites for Sydney's flight overflow. His glossy campaign, sent to councils, government and media outlets, outlines plans for a \$140 million high speed rail (HSR) terminal adjacent to Canberra airport and a "multi-modal hub".

The terminal, designed by architects Guida Moseley Brown, is pegged for completion by 2020.

"Our own view is that there will never be a second airport built in the Sydney basin and that this fundamentally changes the economics of HSR both in terms of passenger demand and also capital cost to government," Mr Byron said.

His views are no secret but his campaign ups pressure on the federal government for a decision. It also harnesses NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell's support for HSR above a second airport in the Sydney basin.

That's despite a joint state and federal study into airport capacity finding that HSR to

Canberra would not negate the need for a second international facility in Sydney.

It's not fazing Mr Byron.

"Premier O'Farrell's logic of linking Sydney to Canberra airport with HSR, at a cost of \$11 billion but saving \$22bn on a second airport, and overcoming the policy of paralysis of choosing a second airport site, will become compelling," his letter states.

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Pollies' pay 'is fair'

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