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Office of the Chief Executive

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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TRALEE ON TRACK

Today's decision of the full bench of the Federal Court found that AirServices Australia is able to endorse a Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) for Canberra Airport without examining the accuracy of air traffic projections on which it is based. Village Building had sort to have Airservices obliged to independently review the Airport's traffic projections before they became the basis for land use planning.

Justice Moore said that Canberra Airport's draft ANEF cannot be endorsed by the Minister for Transport in its current form.

Mr Bob Winnel, CEO of The Village Building Co. said "today's decision confirms that AirServices Australia never checks the underlying assumptions for noise made by any Airport. In our view this practice of accepting airport projections without independent review, exposes the system to manipulation, as has occurred in Canberra.

Mr Winnel said, "The Airport's ANEF is based on unachievable flight numbers including saturation night flights. The judgment referred to the need for the Federal Minister for Transport to make regulations governing the endorsement of ANEF contours, to address current shortcomings. In the absence of regulations as to how ANEF's are prepared, the Court has found that there is no basis to restrict the power of Airservices to endorse an ANEF."

Village Building Co. (VBC) Chief Executive Bob Winnel says "today's decision has no impact on rezoning proposals currently before Queanbeyan City Council. Today's judgment did not involve any endorsement by the Court of Canberra Airport's projection of flight numbers, including saturation night flights.

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