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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Australia Forum Convention Centre Design Unveiled**

Internationally prominent architects Fuksas and Guida Moseley Brown today unveiled the reference design for Australian Forum, Canberra's proposed new convention centre. Canberra Convention Bureau Chairman Patrick McKenna describes the futuristic design as fitting for a building that will draw national and international meetings to the national capital. "The design is both timeless and contemporary and will hold its place alongside Canberra's many architecturally renowned buildings" said Mr McKenna.

Research into the economic impacts of Australia Forum has found that a new convention centre will provide a valuable boost to the ACT economy. The report by EY estimates delegate expenditure at \$3 billion in the first 20 years, which is \$1.6 billion more than the existing convention centre is forecast to deliver. "Australia Forum's unique design and central location will be a drawcard for visitors and delegates alike, and will increase the already substantial economic and legacy benefits that business events deliver to the region" said Mr McKenna.

As well as a new international standard airport, Canberra's accommodation supply is growing with hotel stock forecast to increase again in 2015, as new four and five star properties open. "The addition of a new convention centre will complement existing infrastructure and establish Canberra as a world class meetings destination" said Mr McKenna. "We applaud the approach being taken by the ACT Government and will continue to support the progression of Australia Forum".

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Canberra Convention Bureau is the peak body responsible for attracting business events to the Canberra region. With the support of a highly collaborative community, the Bureau works to bring conferences, meetings, incentive programs and amateur sporting events to the region by ensuring Canberra is recognised globally as an exceptional destination. The Bureau is a not for profit organisation funded by ACT Government and industry partners.

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