

## Fact Sheet: AIR FREIGHT

**There is a symbiotic relationship between the air freight industry, passenger numbers and aircraft services at Melbourne Airport, with 85 % of freight carried in the cargo hold of international passenger craft.**

**Demand for freight to and from Melbourne Airport has grown significantly in recent years. In response to this business opportunity for Victorian importers and exporters, plans are underway for a major new freight facility with airside access to the south of the existing freight centre.**

- While the Victorian airfreight sector comprises a relatively small proportion of the overall Victorian freight sector in terms of tonnage, it represents up to a quarter of all freight by value. The airfreight sector's contribution to the competitiveness of high value and time-sensitive exports in international markets cannot be overstated.
- In Australia, Melbourne Airport is second only to Sydney in terms of total freight lifted and carries around 27% of the national total of air freight. In 2006/07, Melbourne Airport handled 350,000 tonnes of international and domestic airfreight.
- Over the last 5 years, Melbourne Airport has experienced strong growth in international passenger movements. This growth has resulted in more international flights to Melbourne which supports the Victorian airfreight industry.
- In the 2006 calendar year, Melbourne Airport exported 84,100 tonnes of air freight worth an estimated \$3.6 billion, and imported 124,000 tonnes of product worth over \$10.4 billion.
- Melbourne Airport's location near the junction of the Hume, Western and Pacific Highways, connected by the ring road, gives excellent road transport access from all regions of Victoria for exporters.