



Western Sydney Airport

UPDATE

COMMUNITY UPDATE



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and Cities

With 2018 now well underway, it has been a very busy few months since last I updated you on Western Sydney Airport. In January work began to underground a 3.2-kilometre long TransGrid high voltage transmission line that presently crosses the airport site. I also announced the clearance of the last building which remained standing on the site. These two important pieces of work followed months of detailed planning and represent critical milestones in the airport project, ensuring the site is cleared so that construction can commence on schedule.

In February, Mr Graham Millett was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of WSA Co, the company that will build and operate the airport. Mr Millett was raised in Western Sydney and has 20 years' management experience in the aviation sector, including at Qantas and as the former Executive General Manager for Aviation. I welcome Mr Millett to the CEO position and look forward to working with him to bring the world to Western Sydney.

Looking to the months ahead, there is more activity as WSA Co begins its design of the airport in accordance with the Airport Plan and goes to market with three key contracts, including for the Early Earthworks package. By the end of 2018, work will have commenced on realigning The Northern Road at the southern end of the airport site while at the northern end, bulk earthworks will be underway near Elizabeth Drive.

In addition to WSA Co activities, the Australian Government is continuing its role in biodiversity conservation, with the Western Sydney Airport Biodiversity Offset Delivery Plan currently in development to be released in the first half of the year. The Plan will see the Government investing up to \$200 million in conservation activities in Western Sydney. The Government will also continue working through the flight path design and Aboriginal cultural heritage matters, among other things.

Western Sydney Airport is on track to commence operations in 2026. Site preparation works are coming to an end and Badgerys Creek is ready to become a construction site. The efforts undertaken now will ensure the airport project can lead the region's positive transformation over the coming decades, attracting businesses and supporting thousands of jobs.



TransGrid line relocation works

TransGrid, the manager and operator of the NSW transmission network, has begun work to relocate the 3.2 kilometre section of above-ground high-voltage transmission line to an underground cable route wholly located within the airport site.

This project is an Australian first for a 330kV transmission network, using an underground cable to connect two sections of above-ground cable on the same line. This innovative technique supports the benefits of the airport and can be achieved while maintaining a safe, reliable electricity supply.

Cemetery relocation complete

The relocation of the Badgerys Creek Anglican and Uniting Church cemeteries on Pitt Street was completed in December 2017. The Australian Government consulted with families, churches and relevant New South Wales agencies throughout the process to ensure the relocation was undertaken respectfully and in accordance with the wishes of families.

The Badgerys Creek Memorial Cemetery, including a memorial plaque and garden, has been established at Leppington to provide a lasting reminder of the history of the Badgerys Creek community and all those laid to rest in the Badgerys Creek Anglican and Uniting Church cemeteries.

Final on-site structure removed

In late January, the final empty building was safely cleared as part of on-site preparation works. Over 230 on-site buildings have been cleared in the past two and a half years. This puts the Government in a good position to hand over a cleared site to WSA Co for main construction works to begin.



Work to deliver Western Sydney's new airport is progressing well with enabling works underway on site and tender packages for major works in the market.

January saw the commencement of works to relocate the high-voltage transmission line, which crosses the airport site, as well as the start of geotechnical investigations and land survey works. It also saw WSA Co seek interest from the private sector to partner on project delivery and main construction works.

In February, WSA Co announced that Mr Graham Millett had been appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer. Mr Millett is an experienced senior executive with 20 years in the aviation sector and will lead the team that will deliver Western Sydney Airport.

More details about the airport and upcoming business opportunities are available at wsaco.com.au and businesses can register their interest in receiving future e-news at info@wsaco.com.au

FOWSA engages the Blue Mountains

On 15 January, Professor Peter Shergold, the Chair of Forum On Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA), travelled to the Blue Mountains to meet with Blue Mountain City Council representatives, the Mountains Combined Chamber and Community, and local stakeholders. Professor Shergold heard concerns and discussed ways that FOWSA can be more open, engaged and accessible to the residents of the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney.

FOWSA brings together a diverse range of community members from across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, as well as representatives from government and industry. Their role is to ensure community voices are heard during the development of Western Sydney Airport, including throughout the construction and the planning and design of flight paths.

The next FOWSA meeting will be on 16 March 2018. If you would like to raise a topic for discussion at this meeting, please email fowsa@infrastructure.gov.au

You can find more information on FOWSA, including the minutes of previous meetings, by visiting westernsydneyairport.gov.au





Western Sydney Airport's Biodiversity Offset Delivery Plan

A critical component of building the airport is establishing a comprehensive strategy for protecting and maintaining the biodiversity of Western Sydney.

As part of this important work, the Australian Government has partnered with the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan to deliver the Threatened Flora Propagation Plan. Under this program, cuttings and seeds are being taken from threatened plant species on the airport site and used in trials to establish the best techniques to regenerate and grow them. Seeds will be stored at the Australian PlantBank and propagated plants will be used in revegetation programs around Western Sydney, enhancing the population size and genetic viability of these species. Some are expected to be planted in the 117-hectare on-site environmental conservation zone along Badgerys Creek.

The Government has also entered into a \$10 million funding agreement with Greening Australia to contribute to their native seed production program for Western Sydney's Cumberland Plain. The program, which will include grass seed collection activities on and around the airport site, will lead to a ten-fold increase in native seed production capacity in Western Sydney by 2022.

Aboriginal cultural heritage program

The Aboriginal heritage archaeological survey and salvage program commenced in January 2018. With participation from Aboriginal stakeholders, this initial stage of Aboriginal heritage survey and salvage work is being undertaken in advance of early enabling ground works on the site. This initial survey and salvage program is expected to be completed by April 2018. Undertaking this work will ensure any surface artefacts are identified and safeguarded. The results will be incorporated into the Aboriginal heritage records for the Western Sydney Airport site.

Before the larger main construction works begin, a separate Aboriginal heritage survey and salvage program will need to be developed and approved. Aboriginal stakeholders will be consulted on this program before survey and salvage is undertaken. Other important elements of the Aboriginal cultural heritage program for Western Sydney Airport will also be progressed in the coming months, including an oral history project to record memories and stories relating to Western Sydney and the airport site.

Find out more



www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au



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