



# WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT community update



Paul Fletcher  
Minister for Urban Infrastructure

## A message from the Minister

On 9 May 2017, the Turnbull Government announced that it will establish a company, to be called WSA Co, to develop and operate Western Sydney Airport.

This decision clears the way for the Turnbull Government to move ahead quickly to develop Western Sydney Airport.

Western Sydney Airport is a vitally important project for Western Sydney, for Sydney, and the nation, which is why the Coalition Government ended decades of indecision by committing to the project in 2014.

The airport will provide much needed extra aviation capacity, with Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport to reach its limit by the mid-2030s. It will be an economic hub for Western Sydney, generating thousands of jobs and bringing better access to air travel to the people of Western Sydney.

This announcement followed the decision by Sydney Airport, the owner of Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport, that it would not be taking up its right of first refusal to build and operate Western Sydney Airport.

WSA Co will develop the airport on the same terms offered to Sydney Airport: an airport with a single, 3.7-kilometre runway capable of handling all types of aircraft, including the Airbus A380.

Earthworks will start by end of next year (2018) and the airport will be operational by 2026.

While we continue to progress this nationally significant project, it is critical that the voice of the community is heard loud and clear. I announced on 10 April 2017 that Professor Peter Shergold AC, Chair and Chancellor of Western Sydney University, will chair of the Forum On Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA), which will provide a key connection between the community, the Government and the airport company during the airport's construction.

I am confident that the members of FOWSA will work effectively to communicate the community's views to the Government, and help shape the development of the Western Sydney Airport so it is a success for the community it will serve.

# Forum On Western Sydney Airport established



Professor Peter Shergold AC

Professor Peter Shergold AC was appointed as Chair of the Forum On Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA), by Minister Fletcher on 10 April 2017. As the leader of Western Sydney University, one of the region's most cherished and dynamic institutions, Professor Shergold brings a wealth of public and private sector experience to the role of FOWSA chair.

The 22 members of FOWSA were drawn from communities across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, as well as the aviation industry and public sector agencies. The members possess a wide range of skills, experience and involvement in their local communities, meaning that FOWSA will be a robust forum for community engagement.

The first meeting of FOWSA will take place in late May 2017. For more information on FOWSA, including the full list of members, visit [www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/forum](http://www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/forum).

## WSA Co to deliver the Western Sydney Airport

The Australian Government will establish a Commonwealth-owned company, called WSA Co, to deliver Western Sydney Airport.

The 2017 Budget includes a commitment of up to \$5.3 billion over 10 years for WSA Co to build the airport. This investment will allow the construction of Western Sydney Airport to proceed in the quickest and most efficient way possible. During the construction phase alone \$1.9 billion in value will be added to the Western Sydney economy.

Western Sydney Airport will be a full-service airport with a 3.7-kilometre runway capable of handling up to 10 million passengers per year.

WSA Co will have its own Board and Chair and will be up and running in the new financial year. The company will draw on the best aviation expertise in the private sector and maximise private-sector involvement in the design, construction and operation of the new airport. Seeking market expertise will be essential to the success of this nationally significant project. With construction to begin by the end of 2018, a tender for an early works package is expected to be issued before the end of this year.

The Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development will continue its regulatory oversight of the project and maintain responsibility for issues such as the airspace and flight path design process. The Department will also monitor compliance with the environmental conditions contained in the Airport Plan.

## Next steps in the Western Sydney Airport project





Biodiversity expert working on the project

## Biodiversity conservation measures take the next step

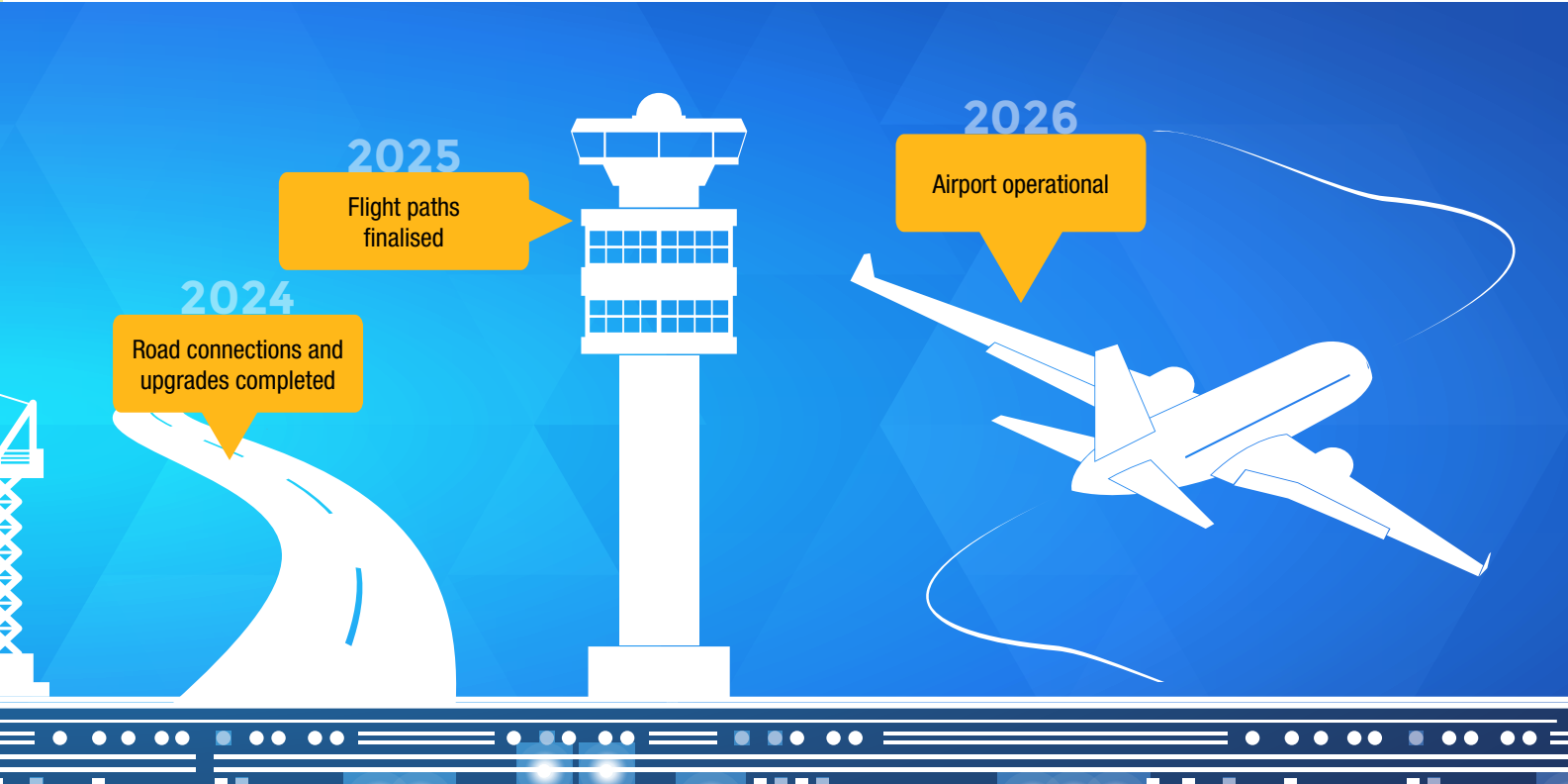
Minimising environmental impact is integral to the design and construction of the airport, and biodiversity conservation is a core objective of the airport development.

The Government is currently developing a Biodiversity Offset Delivery Plan which will deliver options to offset the effects on vegetation from the development of the airport. This plan will be in place before major earthworks start at the airport site by the end of 2018.

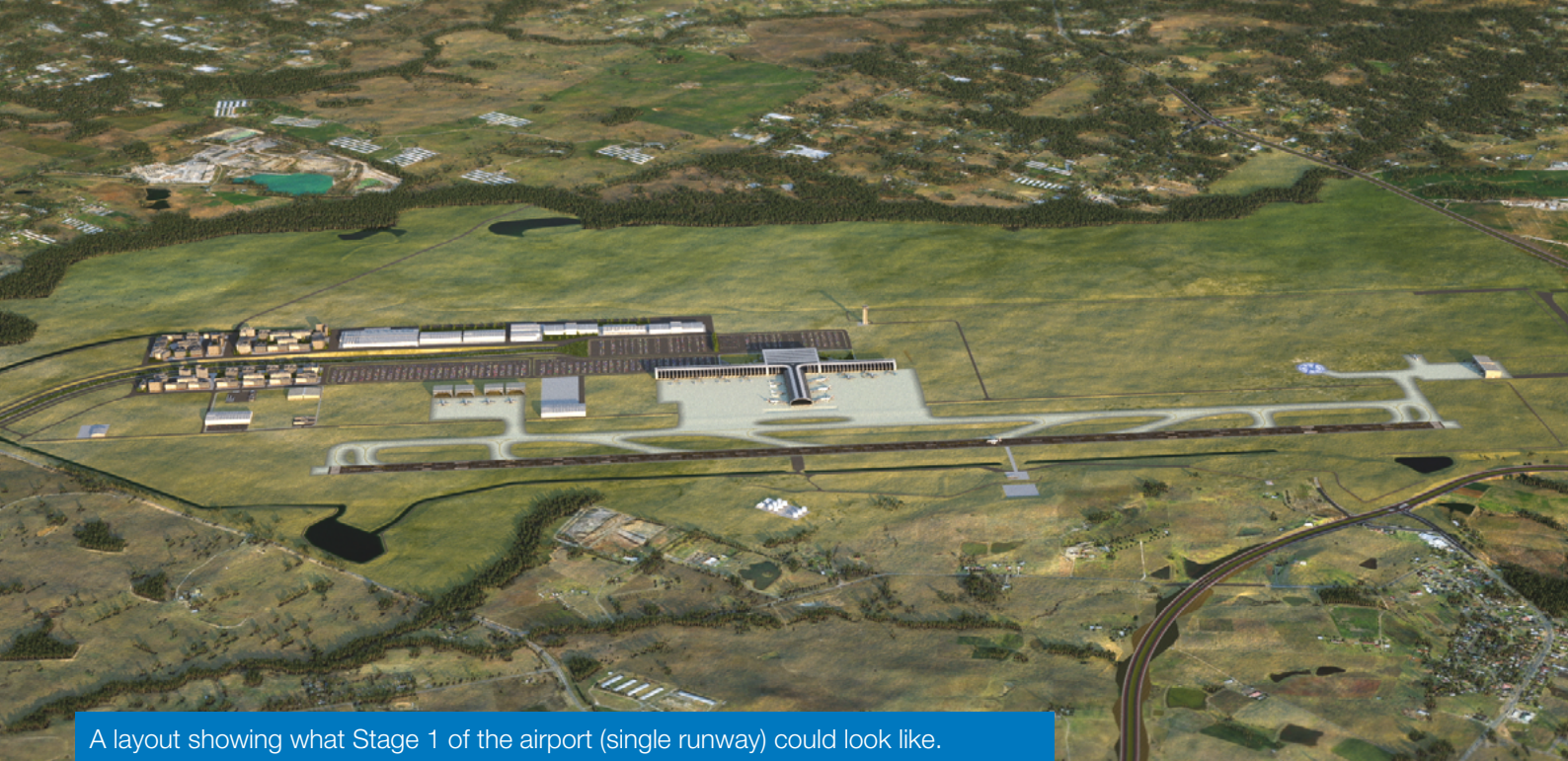
An Experts Group has been established to support the delivery of biodiversity offsets for the airport, including

protecting offset sites and other activities to conserve threatened species and ecological communities in Western Sydney.

In addition to delivering the Biodiversity Offset Delivery Plan, the Australian Government has entered into a \$10 million funding agreement with Greening Australia for its grass seed activities collection program on the Western Sydney Airport site and other sites in Western Sydney. This seed supply will help preserve affected vegetation communities on the Cumberland Plain.







A layout showing what Stage 1 of the airport (single runway) could look like.

## Power transmission line to be relocated

A 330-kilovolt transmission line currently crosses the airport site. This line needs to be relocated as part of the development of Western Sydney Airport. TransGrid, the manager and operator of the New South Wales transmission network, is working with the Australian Government to plan for the relocation of the transmission line.

Detailed investigations have found that the best option is to direct the existing on-site 3.2-kilometre section of aboveground transmission line through an underground cable located wholly within the boundary of the airport site. An underground cable route will ensure that the required works will be completed with minimal disruption to the surrounding community and landscape.

In addition to a purpose-built trench for the cable, the relocation will also require constructing transition sites at each end of the underground cable section. These sites are required to connect the existing off-site overhead transmission line with the new underground cable.

Further information will be provided to the community before relocation work commences, which is expected before the end of the year.

Further information is available from TransGrid by phoning their Community Information Line on 1800 222 537 or visiting their website at [www.transgrid.com.au](http://www.transgrid.com.au).

## On-site activities

Work is continuing with the NSW Rural Fire Service to reduce fire risk at the airport site. In addition, cattle are grazing on the site to keep the fuel load down.

Recent rains have kept the site fire risk in check, but further fire hazard reduction activities will be undertaken as the cooler months arrive.

## Find out more



[www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au](http://www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au)



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