



# WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT community update



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## A message from the Minister

Western Sydney is one of Australia's fastest growing regions. To keep pace with this growth, we must carefully plan transport infrastructure to ensure it meets the needs of the Western Sydney community well into the future.

The proposed Western Sydney Airport will be a game changer for the region. To ensure this future development maximises benefits and minimises impacts on both the community and the environment, the Western Sydney Airport Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has now been finalised. The finalised EIS is a comprehensive assessment that provides an accurate and contemporary picture of the airport site at Badgerys Creek and the surrounding region. It is the culmination of over 700 field studies and 19 technical reports, along with the input received from the community in the form of nearly 5,000 submissions.

The assessment outlines a number of mitigation and management measures to protect the environmental value of the airport site and surrounding Western Sydney region. The final EIS has been presented to the Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP for his consideration. Following this consideration, he will place any necessary environmental conditions on the airport development.

A revised draft Airport Plan has also been released. The Airport Plan will be finalised following the Minister for the Environment and Energy's consideration of the EIS. Any environmental conditions or provisions specified by the Minister for the Environment and Energy must be included in the Airport Plan.

I wish to thank the community for their input into this environmental assessment. The EIS includes a Submissions Report that details all the matters raised in the submissions and how they were addressed. As work continues towards an airport commencing operations in the mid-2020s, there will be more opportunities for you and your community to have your say on the project. Read this newsletter to find out more.

## Have your say on Western Sydney's future rail needs

A discussion paper on Western Sydney's future rail needs has been released for community comment. The Western Sydney Rail Needs discussion paper will inform the Australian and New South Wales governments' Joint Scoping Study looking into future rail transport options to serve Western Sydney and the proposed Western Sydney Airport.

The discussion paper outlines the key challenges and opportunities for planning new rail services, and details a range of rail service options that could connect to key destinations across Western Sydney, including the proposed airport. The community's views on these rail options are being sought. The final report will include a shortlist of preferred rail options for consideration by both governments and is expected to be completed in the first half of 2017.

The consultation period for the discussion paper closes on 28 October 2016. To view the discussion paper and have your say on Western Sydney's rail future, visit: **[www.westernsydneyrail.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://www.westernsydneyrail.transport.nsw.gov.au)**.



## Environmental Impact Statement finalised

The Western Sydney Airport Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has now been finalised, taking into account the nearly 5,000 submissions received during public exhibition.

The EIS is a detailed assessment of both the construction and operation of Stage 1 of the proposed Western Sydney Airport (one runway and capacity for up to 10 million passengers a year), as outlined in the revised draft Airport Plan. It also provides a strategic long-term assessment of potential impacts as the airport grows beyond the Stage 1 development. Future development beyond Stage 1 will require further approvals and environmental assessment.

As a thorough analysis of existing conditions at the airport site and in the surrounding locality, the EIS is based on desktop and field investigations, together with community and stakeholder feedback. Field investigations into noise, flora and fauna, local water and air quality, and European and Aboriginal heritage were carried out in 2015. Additional investigations were carried out in 2016 following community feedback on the draft EIS, including additional background noise modelling undertaken in Luddenham and supplementary flora surveys.

### What has changed in the final EIS?

The final EIS has been updated to reflect comments received during the public exhibition, to account for updated modelling and to provide clarity and further information on various aspects of the project. The updated modelling includes ground-based and taxiing noise, blasting during construction, revised traffic and transport forecasts, air quality and community health. This updated modelling has not changed the overall outcome of the assessment. In addition, the finalised EIS notes that any environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed airport will be minimised through the development and implementation of detailed environmental management plans.

### Airspace and developing final flight paths

The final EIS includes the step-by-step process for finalising the flight paths for Western Sydney Airport and how the community and stakeholders will be consulted in finalising the flight paths. The approach will be similar to that undertaken for the recent Brisbane parallel runway project. This process is summarised in the fact sheet ***Flight paths for Western Sydney Airport***.

### Biodiversity

A biodiversity offsets package has been developed to balance the loss of biodiversity for the Western Sydney Airport Stage 1 development. The package sets the framework for approximately \$180 million in Australian Government investment into biodiversity offset activities to conserve threatened species and ecological communities in the Western Sydney region. The package is outlined in the final EIS.



## How was my submission addressed?

Close to 5,000 submissions were made on the draft EIS. All of the community's comments have been collated and taken into consideration as part of the work to finalise the EIS.

The final EIS contains a Submissions Report including:

- a statistical breakdown of all submissions received;
- a detailed summary of all matters raised in the submissions; and
- a comprehensive response describing how all comments were addressed in the final EIS.

## Will my submission be published?

Submissions on the draft EIS and personal details will not be published.

However, all submissions were provided to the Minister for Environment and Energy to support his consideration of the EIS. Individuals and organisations are free to publish their own submissions if they wish to do so.

## Revised draft Airport Plan

The revised draft Airport Plan provides information on Stage 1 of the proposed Western Sydney Airport along with an overview of its potential long-term development. The revised draft Airport Plan has been updated to take account of the comments received during the community consultation period.

The revised draft Airport Plan outlines the concept design for the airport development, including:

- the development objectives;
- the land-use plan for the airport site; and
- the airport layout.

The revised draft Airport Plan will be considered by the Minister for Environment and Energy, alongside the EIS, to inform the development of conditions that may be placed on the proposed airport.

Once determined, the final Airport Plan will authorise the Stage 1 development for the proposed airport, and will include environmental conditions on the development and operation of the airport.



To maximise local employment and business opportunities throughout

construction and operation of a Western Sydney Airport, an employment plan will be put in place to maximise job opportunities for locals, and provide training and employment opportunities for Indigenous people and people with disadvantages.

## Viewing the final EIS and revised draft Airport Plan

The entire contents of both documents are publicly available online and at displays at local libraries. To view the EIS and revised draft Airport Plan online, visit: [www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au](http://www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au).

A series of fact sheets and a project overview document are also available, summarising particular aspects of the project.



# An airport for Western Sydney: next steps

Developing a greenfield airport is a complex project, and the proposed Western Sydney Airport will be one of the largest infrastructure projects Australia has seen in decades. A range of work is being undertaken across all aspects of the project towards delivering an operational Western Sydney Airport in the mid-2020s.

