



WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT community update



Paul Fletcher
Minister for Urban Infrastructure

A message from the Minister

The Western Sydney Airport has been cleared for take-off. On 12 December 2016, the Prime Minister the Hon Malcolm Turnbull and I announced the approval of the Airport Plan, providing authorisation for the Stage 1 Western Sydney Airport and paving the way for construction to begin in 2018. The airport is set to open in 2026.

This approval was dependent on the Environment Minister's review of the proposal and its environmental assessment. The Airport Plan includes over 40 strict environmental conditions that have been placed on the airport's construction and operation. The conditions include the governing principles for the flight path development incorporating mitigations to minimise noise impacts; measures to ensure options for a fuel pipeline corridor are identified; biodiversity offsets; and a range of other mitigation actions and management plans as detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Another critical step that brings the airport closer to reality is the issuing of the Government's formal contractual terms for building and operating the Western Sydney Airport – known as the Notice of Intention – to Sydney Airport Group (the owners of Kingsford Smith Airport). The Notice of Intention comprises around 1,000 pages of detailed legal documents, which have been carefully developed to ensure that the airport delivers the best economic outcome for Western Sydney and the nation, regardless of the airport operator. Those terms are now being considered by Sydney Airport Group under their right of first refusal to build and run the new airport.

The Government's work to progress the Western Sydney Airport will not stop while Sydney Airport Group considers the Notice of Intention. Over the coming months, work at the airport site will include groundwater monitoring required by the Airport Plan conditions; preparations for the relocation of the TransGrid high voltage power line; and preparing to relocate the part of The Northern Road which currently crosses the site.

Determining the best timing and route options for the Western Sydney Airport rail link is also a key priority for the Government. Following over 1,000 survey responses and submissions from the community and industry on the discussion paper, the joint Scoping Study of Rail Needs for Western Sydney will present a final report to both the Australian and NSW Governments by the middle of this year.

The Australian Government is fully committed to the Western Sydney Airport and to the economic opportunities for the Western Sydney region. By creating more jobs close to home, the airport will have an important role in redirecting economic growth and improving quality of life for Western Sydney's residents.

The last 12 months have been critical in setting the direction and securing regulatory approvals for Western Sydney Airport. I look forward to continuing to work with the community as we make further progress on this transformational infrastructure for Western Sydney.



Airport Plan approved

The Airport Plan has now been determined by the Minister for Urban Infrastructure, providing planning approval for Stage 1 of the Western Sydney Airport.

This follows an assessment of the Airport Plan and its Environmental Impact Statement by the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Minister for the Environment and Energy. The final plan includes over 40 environmental conditions to minimise impacts associated with the development and operation of an airport.

The range of comprehensive mitigation measures includes environmental management plans for both the construction and operational phases. These cover areas such as flight path design, noise management, air quality, biodiversity, waste and resources, and community and stakeholder engagement.

The conditions will ensure Western Sydney Airport incorporates 21st-century design and technology, while also considering the long term environmental impacts of this significant infrastructure development.

The Airport Plan authorises the construction and operation of Stage 1 of the airport, which will comprise a single runway and facilities to cater for up to 10 million passengers per year. While the Airport Plan sets out the Australian Government's long-term vision for the airport, any future stages of development will still be subject to approval and environmental assessment under the *Airports Act 1996*.

The Airport Plan, including the conditions, is available on the Western Sydney Airport website, www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au.



Australia's airports use a range of different fuel supply methods. Some are serviced by truck only; others exclusively use a fuel pipeline; and some use a combination of both trucks and pipeline.

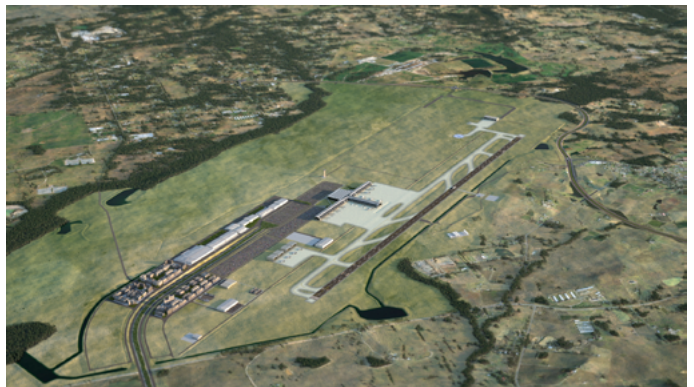
To ensure Western Sydney Airport is serviced by a fuel pipeline at the right time, the Australian Government is preparing a report on options for preserving a fuel pipeline corridor. The report will be finalised before the end of the year, in consultation with the NSW Government. The airport operator must also review fuel supply options every five years, taking account of the social, economic and environmental factors of road transport to the alternatives, including a fuel pipeline.



What might a Western Sydney Airport look like?

A new video is now available, bringing the Western Sydney Airport to life for the first time. Based on the indicative airport layouts shown in the Airport Plan, the video provides a first look at how the area will be transformed with the airport's construction, with a 3D animation of how the terminal, runway and supporting facilities may be laid out on the airport site. The animation extends beyond the airport site to include surrounding transport connections, including the upgraded and realigned The Northern Road and the new M12 Motorway.

An interactive portal allowing users to view different parts of the airport is available at www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au.



Notice of Intention issued to Sydney Airport Group

The Australian Government has issued a Notice of Intention (NOI) to Sydney Airport Group. The NOI consists of around 1,000 pages of legal documents, setting out the Government's detailed terms for developing and operating the Western Sydney Airport. The NOI forms a binding contract if Sydney Airport Group chooses to accept the offer.

Prior to issuing the offer the Government undertook over two years of consultation, covering a range of issues and comprising more than 100 meetings, with Sydney Airport Group. Following this extensive consultation, it is expected that Sydney Airport Group will decide whether to take up the opportunity to develop and operate the Western Sydney Airport by mid May 2017.

In developing the contractual requirements, the Australian Government has ensured that the Western Sydney Airport will be built and operated in a way that delivers the best economic outcome for Western Sydney and the nation, regardless of the airport operator. The NOI aligns with the Airport Plan and any development on site must be undertaken in compliance with the Airport Plan.

Should Sydney Airport Group decline the opportunity, the Government is committed to progressing the project by developing and operating the airport itself, or offering the opportunity to other private sector companies. Under the right of first refusal any offer must be on materially the same terms as those provided to Sydney Airport Group.



What's next in delivering the Western Sydney Airport?

Flight path design

Establishing the Forum On Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA) is the next important step in delivering the airspace and flight path design for the airport. FOWSA will be the main community consultation group for the Western Sydney Airport flight path design process and will play an important role in ensuring the community's views are taken into account.

Following nominations received from the community and organisations, membership of the FOWSA is expected to be announced soon and the first meeting will be held before the middle of this year.

This flight path design process will take several years to complete and will be subject to further environmental assessment and formal community consultation.

Preparing the airport site for construction

While Sydney Airport Group is considering the Notice of Intention, a range of work is continuing to prepare the 1,800-hectare airport site for the Stage 1 Western Sydney Airport.

A 330kV high voltage transmission line currently crosses the airport site on structures at the location of the first runway. The Australian Government is working with TransGrid, the manager and operator of the NSW transmission network, on the detailed plans for relocating this section of the transmission line underground, within the boundary of the airport site. This will also include two new transition sites; where the existing off-site overhead transmission line meets the new underground cable. This will ensure the works are achieved with minimal disruption to the surrounding community.

The airport site is being cleared of existing structures and this will continue in the coming months. The Australian Government is also consulting with known relatives in preparation for the relocation of cemeteries currently located within the airport site.

Access to parts of the site is restricted by minor road closures and locked gates. The airport site is also being cleared of overgrown vegetation where it is not protected by environmental approvals and is safe to do so.

Additional signage at the airport site

In the coming weeks, work will be undertaken to install additional signs marking the boundaries of the airport site. These signs will be installed at the southern boundaries of the airport site, on both Badgerys Creek Road and The Northern Road.

Find out more



www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au



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