Australian Government

WINTER 2017



Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Western Sydney Airport

COMMUNITY UPDATE



Paul Fletcher Minister for Urban Infrastructure

A message from the Minister

The Turnbull Government is making continued progress towards Western Sydney Airport opening by 2026. Since my last update, and the announcement that the Government will invest \$5.3 billion in the airport, the Government has set up a new Government company called WSA Co to build the airport and appointed a Chair and three Directors to the Board.

WSA Co has a highly skilled board with considerable private sector experience. WSA Co will be chaired by Mr Paul O'Sullivan, the current Chair and former Chief Executive of Optus. Mr O'Sullivan's business leadership expertise makes him highly credentialed to lead WSA Co. His experience at the helm of an infrastructure company, which established market-share against a long-established business, will be of great value as the Western Sydney Airport project is delivered.

The Board's early priorities will be to recruit WSA Co's CEO and start preparations to go to market on early enabling activities. The Government also expects to appoint additional Directors to WSA Co in the coming months, with a further focus on construction expertise and experience in Western Sydney.

I attended the first meeting of the Forum On Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA) in May. FOWSA brings together 23 local community leaders and industry representatives to provide community perspectives to the Government about the airport. High quality community engagement will be critical to the airport's success, and the Government will be closely involved with the community as the development of the airport progresses.

Local businesses are showing keen interest in the opportunities that the airport presents. In June I facilitated an event with local tourism operators to discuss how we can maximise tourism opportunities coming from the airport. I also hosted an Industry Information Session for businesses wanting to participate in the construction of the airport. The level of interest is very strong and is a powerful indicator of the benefits that Western Sydney Airport will bring to the region.



First FOWSA meeting

The Forum On Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA) met for the first time on 26 May 2017. FOWSA is made up of representatives from the Western Sydney community and local industry and will ensure community voices are heard on a wide range of issues concerning the airport which are important to Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. FOWSA will have an important role in the flight path design process as well as the broader economic, employment and educational opportunities presented by the airport.

The next FOWSA meeting will be held on 29 August 2017. For more information on FOWSA, please visit www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/forum. If there is an issue you would like raised at a FOWSA meeting, you can email fowsa@infrastructure.gov.au.

Next steps



WSA Co up and running

WSA Co, the new company responsible for constructing Western Sydney Airport, is now officially up and running.

An independent Board has been established, with a Chair and three Directors appointed. WSA Co and its Board will operate at arm's length from the Government.

Each of the appointed Board members has a strong track record of delivery in the private sector, and together have a wide range of commercial and airport expertise. To complement their skills and experience, up to a further three Board members will be appointed.

The Board will meet for the first time this month.

With construction on site expected to commence next year, WSA Co is expected to commence procurement of construction activities before the end of this year.

For more information, visit www.wsaco.com.au.

WSA Co board

Mr Paul O'Sullivan, Chair Mrs Fiona Balfour, Director Mr Tim Eddy, Director Ms Christine Spring, Director

Tourism opportunities in Western Sydney

The tourism industry contributed \$53 billion in 2015–16 to the Australian economy. This amount is expected to grow as the number of international tourists rises (up 11 per cent to 7.6 million visitors last year). Western Sydney Airport will provide an international gateway for tourists to explore the Blue Mountains, Nepean River and Southern Highlands and experience the multiculturalism of Western Sydney.

On 6 June 2017, local tourism representatives from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains came together with all levels of government to discuss the opportunities the airport will bring to the tourism sector in the region. Dr Andy Marks, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Western Sydney University, chaired the event and speakers included the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Urban Infrastructure, the Hon Angus Taylor MP, Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, the Hon Stuart Ayres MP, NSW Minister for Western Sydney, and representatives from Austrade and tourism businesses.

The event provided tourism operators the opportunity to consult with those delivering Western Sydney Airport and to share ideas on incorporating the region's identity into the airport's design.

Construction

On 26 June 2017, over 500 business representatives attended an Industry Information Session to learn about the current status of the project, the development of the airport and the opportunities to tender for various areas of work on the project, including the design and construction works.

Information from the event is available on the Western Sydney Airport website at www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/industry.

Construction of the airport is expected to create over 11,000 direct and indirect jobs, and generate \$1.9 billion for the Western Sydney economy. Any company involved in the airport's development and construction will need to meet the environmental, safety, and security requirements under the Airport Plan, Environmental Impact Statement, functional specifications, and international obligations.





What's happening on site?

Road closures

Minor roads within the airport site have been closed where access is no longer required. This will assist in improving site security and preventing unlawful activity, such as rubbish dumping. Closures will only affect minor access roads within the site. Badgerys Creek Road will remain open at this time. Road closures include Ferndale Road, Jackson Road, Fuller Street, Gardiner Road, Taylors Road, Jagelman Road, Winston Close, Longleys Road, part of Anton Road, access to Vicary's Winery off The Northern Road, part of Pitt Street, Leggo Street, and part of Vicar Park Lane.

Geotechnical work to help make the airport rail ready

Geotechnical work is underway on the Western Sydney Airport site. This work will further inform the development and design of rail infrastructure for the airport. The work builds on the geotechnical investigations carried out earlier this year by GHD.

Relocating cemeteries

Planning continues for the relocation of cemeteries from the airport site, including the St John's Anglican and Uniting (Methodist) Cemeteries on Pitt Street. Relocation works are anticipated to commence in late 2017, with the cemeteries being permanently closed on 31 August 2017. Members of the public will not be able to visit these cemeteries after this date. The Government is working with families in relation to the relocation.

Every effort has been undertaken to contact family members. If you believe you may have a relative in one of these cemeteries and have not contacted the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development before, please contact BCplacemanager@infrastructure.gov.au or 1800 038 160.

Hazard reduction burning continues

In preparation for summer, the NSW Rural Fire Service will conduct hazard reduction burning in selected areas on the airport site during September and October 2017. Bushfire management measures such as hazard reduction burning will help reduce the fuel load on site and complements hazard reduction activities already happening on site, including grazing cattle and hay baling.

Find out more



www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au

Western Sydney Unit on 1800 038 160



wsu@infrastructure.gov.au