



Western Sydney Airport



Community Update

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS



Alan Tudge
 Minister for Cities, Urban
 Infrastructure and
 Population

Message from the Minister

Construction began on Western Sydney Airport with an official ground-breaking ceremony on 24 September 2018.

I joined Prime Minister Scott Morrison, NSW Minister for Western Sydney Stuart Ayres and Western Sydney Airport Chair Paul O’Sullivan on the site to mark the occasion. Early earthworks are the first stage of construction and clear the way for major earthworks and runway construction.

Beyond the airport site, we are working to maximise the economic and social opportunities the airport will bring to Western Sydney and we will continue to consult with the community throughout the airport project to make sure your views are heard.

Western Sydney Airport is a tangible example of the Government’s commitment to delivering infrastructure that will reduce congestion, connect communities and improve liveability and I look forward to working with the Western Sydney community on this once-in-a-generation opportunity.





Update from FOWSA Chair Professor Peter Shergold

The Forum On Western Sydney Airport's (FOWSA) role is to ensure community members are informed and have the opportunity to share their views on aspects of the airport development.

In May and June, FOWSA hosted four community drop-in information sessions. More than 250 people attended the sessions held at Wollondilly, Liverpool, the Blue Mountains and Penrith. FOWSA representatives and project team members were on hand to listen to concerns and answer questions about transport, planning and zoning, flight paths and curfew, among others.

As the Chair of FOWSA, I was pleased to hear directly from the community and thank all who attended. I learned from every conversation that I had. I heard a wide diversity of opinions. FOWSA intends to hold more drop-in information sessions at different locations throughout Western Sydney.

Following the Penrith information session, FOWSA held its first open meeting, with members of the public observing. This was an opportunity for community members to see first-hand how FOWSA works as a conduit between the community, the Government and Western Sydney Airport. Questions from the public were discussed, including on curfew, noise, environmental aspects and the consultation process going forward. After the meeting, discussions continued over afternoon tea.

A record of the meeting and questions and answers, are available at <http://westernsydneyairport.gov.au/fowsa>

You can contact FOWSA at any time at FOWSA@infrastructure.gov.au

Airspace design

Together with the construction of Western Sydney Airport, the airspace above the airport needs to be designed and protected for the long term. The process of determining flight paths is called 'airspace design' and consists of four phases:

- Planning (2017 to 2019)
- Preliminary design (2019 to 2020) and environmental assessment (2021 to 2022)
- Detailed design (2022 to 2023)
- Implementation (2023 to 2024)

The steps in each of these phases will ensure airspace design maximises safety and efficiency, and minimises noise and environmental impacts, while taking community and stakeholder views into account.

The airspace design for Western Sydney Airport is currently in the Planning phase. During this phase, a set of technical system requirements for the airport's airspace design will be developed, in line with the principles set out in the Airport Plan. These include:

- Safety is non-negotiable.
- Aircraft arrivals will not converge through a single merge point over any single residential area.
- Flights over residential areas and noise-sensitive facilities will be avoided as much as possible.
- The use of head-to-head operations, when safe to do so, is the preferred option for managing aircraft noise at night. This means aircraft will both land from, and take off to, the south west, enabling them to fly over less populated areas.

The team of experts leading the airspace design will then develop concept options to address these requirements and other airspace design principles.

The next phase is Preliminary design and environmental assessment, during which an airspace design that best meets these requirements will be referred to the Environment Minister for assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Extensive consultation will take place as part of this phase.

Community engagement activities, including through FOWSA, will take place throughout the airspace design process to keep community members informed and consulted.



Western Sydney City Deal update

The Western Sydney City Deal is a 20-year agreement between the Australian and NSW governments, along with eight local councils, to create the Western Parkland City and support coordinated planning, new housing, job creation, and a more connected and liveable city for Western Sydney residents.

The \$150 million Liveability Program was recently announced. City Deal councils will share in funding for projects that help create neighbourhoods that are liveable, creative, sustainable and healthy. The program will support the delivery of high-quality community

infrastructure and public places, such as community centres, bike paths, public spaces and other facilities.

Federal, state and local government agencies are working together on planning for the Western Sydney Aerotropolis, an area of 11,200 hectares surrounding the airport site that will help deliver new jobs. In August, the NSW Department of Planning released a Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan for the Western Sydney Aerotropolis for community feedback. This plan identifies potential land uses and the sequence of development in the Aerotropolis.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities has been working directly with Aboriginal people to respectfully identify, record and manage the Aboriginal cultural heritage matters related to the airport site. This has included ongoing Aboriginal Stakeholder Forums. An initial survey and salvage activity program with archaeologists and Aboriginal stakeholders was completed before ground disturbance activities for the TransGrid relocation and the first phase of main construction work now underway.

Western Sydney Airport is responsible for managing and protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage on the airport site and will implement the environmental construction management plan approved on 24 September 2018. This will ensure that cultural heritage is appropriately managed as the airport is developed. This includes consulting and engaging with Aboriginal stakeholders throughout the design and construction of the airport. The department is also required by the Airport Plan to engage with stakeholders on a potential keeping place for Aboriginal cultural heritage from the airport site.

Biodiversity Offsets

The Biodiversity Offset Delivery Plan for Western Sydney Airport has been approved. This plan sets out actions to balance the biodiversity impacts from the Stage 1 airport development. This will include:

- Purchasing credits through the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme
- Acquiring and managing land with suitable biodiversity characteristics
- Improving the biodiversity value of protected land through restoration projects

A minimum of 900 hectares of Defence Establishment Orchard Hills will be restored and secured as an offset site and its biodiversity will be actively improved over a period of up to 20 years, with ongoing conservation and management obligations.

During the construction of Western Sydney Airport, around 1200 hectares of vegetation will be removed, including about 350 hectares of native vegetation. Biodiversity offsets are necessary for the threatened species and ecological communities listed under Commonwealth and NSW legislation.

Western Sydney Airport company update



On Monday 24 September, work to build Western Sydney Airport began, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison giving the signal for ground to be broken on the project he called “the future of Sydney”. Earthmovers rolled in to begin the first phase of construction – early earthworks, which involves moving 1.8 million cubic metres of earth.

This significant construction challenge pales in comparison to the major earthworks phase. Due to begin in 2019, major earthworks will shift 22 million cubic metres of earth, more than three times the amount moved to build the nearby, 41-kilometre M7 motorway.

This makes building Western Sydney Airport one of the biggest earthmoving challenges in Australian history. The earth from the hills we flatten will be used to fill the valleys, minimising truck movements to and from the site.

In the past few months both Qantas and Virgin Australia have committed to flying from Western Sydney Airport, which is a huge vote of confidence from Australia’s premium airlines.

There is also plenty going on behind the scenes. Since becoming the lessee of the airport site in May 2018, Western Sydney Airport has appointed expert airport construction firm Bechtel as its delivery partner to help manage construction and ensure the airport is open to passengers, airlines and freight operators, on schedule in 2026.

To keep up to date with the construction project, follow our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/westernsydneyairport.

What’s happening on the ground

The Northern Road upgrade

Residents can expect to see activity as preparation begins for the realignment of The Northern Road between Mersey Road and Eaton Road. The Northern Road, which currently crosses where the runway will be built, will be moved further west, away from and off the airport site. This is a critical project that will allow Western Sydney Airport to begin major earthworks in the southwest of the airport site.

Powerline relocation

TransGrid is making good progress moving high-voltage electricity transmission cables underground to prepare the airport site for further work. TransGrid and contractor Diona have now completed the underground cable installation, including a segment crossing beneath The Northern Road. Early work is underway for construction at the site where existing above-ground powerlines will meet the new underground cables.

M12 Motorway

Environmental investigations are continuing for the M12 Motorway, with some already completed. The team has almost finished geotechnical field investigations, assessing the surface and sub-surface conditions to consider in road design. Aboriginal heritage investigations are complete. Initial concept designs are underway and, once refined, NSW Roads and Maritime Services will invite community comment on the design, alongside the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Assessment, due in mid 2019.



Find out more



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