



WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT community update



Darren Chester
Minister for Infrastructure
and Transport

As the new Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, I am excited to be working on one of the most significant infrastructure projects in Australia. In his retirement speech, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Warren Truss MP, expressed how delighted he was to have ended decades of deliberation by making a decision on the Western Sydney Airport. I am equally proud to be progressing the Government's vision for the Western Sydney Airport and look forward to seeing the first plane take off in a decade's time.

I would like to thank the community for their participation and feedback on the Western Sydney Airport draft Airport Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which were on public exhibition from 19 October to 18 December 2015. Almost 5,000 submissions were received—these are currently being reviewed and collated so they can be carefully considered in the preparation of the final Airport Plan and EIS.

Progress is continuing on developing the right transport solutions to serve the Western Sydney community and the proposed airport. Early works have begun on Stage 1 of The Northern Road Upgrade, and a preferred corridor for the realignment of The Northern Road around Luddenham has been identified by NSW Roads and Maritime Services. The Australian and New South Wales governments are also working on a Joint Scoping Study to examine how rail could service the proposed airport and Western Sydney's growth. Read this newsletter to find out more.

Community has their say on draft Airport Plan and draft EIS

The public exhibition of the draft Airport Plan and draft EIS was an opportunity for the community to become involved in the Western Sydney Airport project.

Close to 1,500 community members attended 16 public information sessions across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, and information was also provided online and at 19 local libraries.

The community's feedback has been received, with almost 5,000 submissions lodged.

The submissions are now being reviewed and collated as part of the process to finalise the Airport Plan and EIS.

The final EIS will take into account matters raised during the exhibition period, and include a summary report of the submissions received.

The final EIS is expected in mid-2016 and will be provided to the Environment Minister for consideration.

The final Airport Plan will be determined by the Infrastructure Minister. The determination will follow the Environment Minister's consideration of the final EIS and the management and mitigation measures contained within it. As part of this process, the Environment Minister can require conditions for the purpose of protecting the environment be included in the Airport Plan.

If you wish to view the draft Airport Plan, draft EIS or any of the supporting documents, please visit www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au. The noise modelling tool is also still available www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/noisetool/.

Shaping Western Sydney's future transport network

Western Sydney's transport network will need to be progressively upgraded and expanded in order to meet the needs of the region's growing population and economy. An efficient and reliable transport network will also unlock the potential for a Western Sydney Airport to bring jobs, investment and opportunities to the region.

Transport infrastructure will be in place to service the proposed airport by the time the first plane takes off in the mid-2020s. By 2030, this transport network will meet the needs of:

- an additional one million residents, making Western Sydney the fastest growing region in Australia;
- businesses and specialist industries contributing to Australia's third-largest economy; and
- approximately 10 million passengers per year and nearly 9,000 direct jobs at the proposed Western Sydney Airport.

By looking at all the options, listening to the community's feedback and making the right decisions now, Western Sydney will be well-served by its future transport network. This network will include an airport, rail and roads:

Airport

An airport would be a gateway to Western Sydney, offering domestic and international travel and business opportunities.

Airport Plan and EIS will be finalised mid-2016. Finalisation will take account of submissions received.

Rail

Options for Western Sydney and the airport's rail needs are being assessed through a joint Australian and NSW government study, which will include community consultation.

Planning for the proposed airport preserves space for future rail access.

Roads

Construction has already started on the Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan's \$3.6 billion package of major road upgrades.

Planning and consultation on upcoming projects is still ongoing.

Rail for Western Sydney's future

The Australian and NSW governments are undertaking a Joint Scoping Study to look at the options for the best route, types of services, construction timeframe and cost of establishing rail links in Western Sydney and to the proposed airport.

Space for future rail access to the airport site has already been identified in the draft Airport Plan, and the Joint Scoping Study will take this into account.

There will be opportunities for the community to have their say as part of an informed discussion on Western Sydney's future transport needs.

A discussion paper is expected to be released for public comment in the first half of 2016. The scoping study is expected to be completed in late 2016.

Rail infrastructure is a significant investment, and planning is now underway to ensure the right transport infrastructure is in place for Western Sydney's future. To find out more about the scoping study, visit: www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/resources/scopingstudy_rail.aspx.





Construction beginning on The Northern Road Upgrade

The Northern Road is being upgraded as part of the \$3.6 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan.

The upgrade will improve safety, increase road capacity, reduce future congestion and travel times, and service the proposed Western Sydney Airport.

Minor works on The Northern Road Upgrade Stage 1 began in January 2016. Construction is expected to be finished by early 2018.

The Northern Road Upgrade Stage 1 is a 3.3km section from The Northern Road, Narellan to Peter Brock Drive, Oran Park. The work will widen The Northern Road to a four lane divided road with a wide central median and kerbside bus lane in each direction.

The Eastern Option has also been identified as the preferred route for The Northern Road Upgrade Stage 4, diverting The Northern Road around the Western Sydney Airport site. This follows community consultation on four route options.

More information

For more information about the Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan, please contact the NSW Roads and Maritime Services project team on:

Phone: 1800 703 457

Email: wsip@rms.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.rms.nsw.gov.au/wsip



Did you know?

The proposed Western Sydney Airport will not constrain emergency services organisations in hazard reduction and firefighting. These activities are essential for keeping the community safe and for saving lives.

A Western Sydney Airport will provide a greatly increased capacity to support services for aerial firefighting operations, such as refuelling. For example, the proposed airport will be able to handle large firefighting airtankers such as 'Thor', a specially equipped C130 Hercules.

Emergency services aircraft and commercial air traffic routinely operate safely and efficiently all over Australia. Sydney has already seen firefighting aircraft operate effectively around the flight paths over Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Royal National Park without being constrained by Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport – Australia's busiest airport.

Photo Credit: NSW RFS



What's happening on site

Geotechnical investigations

Further geotechnical investigations took place on the airport site at Badgerys Creek from October 2015 to early January 2016. The investigations occurred along the proposed runway alignments and in earthworks areas. These studies are a standard part of planning activities for large construction projects and will be used to inform planning for the Western Sydney Airport.

Relocation of gravesites

As part of the preparation for an airport, the Australian Government is planning for the relocation of gravesites within the airport site. This includes St John's Anglican Cemetery, Uniting (Methodist) Cemetery and family graves at the Anchau Winery.

If you have or believe you may have a relative buried in a grave at these locations, please contact the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

- Email: BCplacemanager@infrastructure.gov.au
- Phone: 1800 038 160
- Mail: Western Sydney Unit,
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development,
GPO Box 594, Canberra, ACT 2601

Demolitions

Demolition of vacant properties is ongoing. As properties become vacant on the airport site, they will be secured to prevent unauthorised access or vandalism. Vacant properties will then be scheduled for demolition.

Minor road closures

Access roads on the airport site will be closed when they are no longer required. Closing off these minor roads will assist in securing the site from unlawful activity including illegal dumping.

Minor road closures will be implemented progressively, with closures expected to commence from mid-April 2016.

These road closures are not expected to impact traffic. Commuters will have continued access to The Northern Road, Badgerys Creek Road and Elizabeth Drive, the main arterial roads in the area.

Find out more



www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au



Western Sydney Unit on 1800 038 160



wsu@infrastructure.gov.au

To find out about indicative noise impacts at your residence, visit:
www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/noisetool