

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Forum on Western Sydney Airport - Record of Meeting 27

10:00am –12:00pm, Thursday 19 June 2025

Western Sydney Convention Centre, Penrith

Chair: Ms Lee de Winton

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
1.	Update from Chair, and action items	<p>The Chair, Ms Lee de Winton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opened the meeting by formally acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was held.• Welcomed everyone to the 27th, and final, Forum on Western Sydney Airport (FoWSA).• Noted the apologies and proxies for this meeting (refer to Appendix B).• Noted Action item 6 from meeting 7, of 29 March 2019 as the only outstanding action item. Proposed closure of this item following presentation by department on Australia's low carbon liquid fuel opportunity.• Proposed that no further action items be taken from today's meeting, as this is the final FoWSA meeting.	
2.	Update from the Department	<p>Mr David Jansen, DITRDCSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledged ongoing concerns regarding flight paths following the Minister's announcement of the decision to authorise the airspace and flight path design for Western Sydney International (Nancy Bird Walton) (WSI) Airport on 4 June 2025.• Noted the Minister has also announced the implementation of an Environmental Monitoring Program and a community engagement forum to monitor and resolve aircraft noise and flight paths issues in the early years of WSI operations.• Noted the Minister had decided to prioritise 'Reciprocal Runway Operations' (RRO) mode, where aircraft take-off to, and arrive from, the southwest, and the 'Reciprocal Runway Operations – Noise Abatement Procedure' (RRO-NAP) at night when safe to do so.	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first phase of the Environmental Monitoring Program will commence in January 2026 prior to airport operations so a baseline is established with raw data to be published regularly, in addition to annual reporting requirements. Reiterated that no significant changes to the flight paths are planned in the near future. Noted that work on Noise Insulation and Property Acquisition (NIPA) program is well advanced and it is expected to commence in late 2025. <p>Mr Gordon Henwood, Mulgoa Resident: Expressed concern about the lack of discussion about noise abatement procedures for communities around the airport, especially those within 5km of WSI e.g. Luddenham, Bringelly and asked why this hadn't been discussed during the last 8 years of FoWSA meetings?</p> <p>Mr Jansen: Acknowledged a timing mismatch between development of flight paths for WSI, and development of the noise abatement procedures which are scheduled for the next stage; which is detailed design. Noted that noise abatement will be discussed with the community during Airservices Australia's upcoming engagement.</p> <p>Ms Susan Templeman MP, Federal Member for Macquarie: Enquired whether the online noise tool had been updated to reflect the latest flight paths, as announced by the Minister on 4 June 2025?</p> <p>Mr Jansen: Acknowledged this was the case.</p>	
3.	Presentation on Australia's low carbon liquid fuel opportunity	<p>Mr Richard Wood, DITRDCSA provided the group with an overview on current initiatives to deliver low carbon liquid fuel for aviation in Australia.</p> <p>Ms Templeman MP: Questioned as to whether the department would be presenting on the remainder of this action item which covered air and water quality?</p> <p>Mr David Jansen: Offered that this is covered in the 2024 EIS and would be happy to respond to questions from members on this outside forum. Members can be provided with chapter references on air and water quality from the 2024 EIS.</p>	

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		<p>Mr Wayne Willmington, Resident of Luddenham: Asked whether electric aircraft were being explored for Australia and more specifically, for WSI?</p> <p>Mr Wood: Confirmed this is something Government is looking at, including electric helicopters but it will be some time before this technology will be taken up in Australia.</p> <p>Mr Nick Ryan, Business Western Sydney: Noting that hybrid aircraft are also being considered at airports around the world, and asked if charging infrastructure would be available for electric aircraft at WSI?</p> <p>Ms Katy Hannouch, WSA Co: Confirmed that WSI has put in place infrastructure for electric ground transport fleet but not for charging electric aircraft.</p> <p>Mr Scott Ifield, WSA Co: WSI is looking at future hydrogen production options on-airport. Noted that Boeing are currently exploring hybrid aircraft. Mentioned that there are conduits under the airport already established for hydrogen option in the future.</p> <p>Ms Georgina Hovell Kwaszenko, Qantas Group: Qantas recently imported 2m litres of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) which was blended with existing aviation fuel, demonstrating that SAF is a viable option.</p> <p>Mr Wood: The main challenge is building a domestic production facility for hydrogen power to scale.</p>	
4.	Update from the Air Navigation Service Provider	<p>Ms Annette Dittmar, Airservices Australia provided the group with an overview of the community engagement for the detailed design of the WSI airspace and flight paths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted on-the-ground community engagement will commence in July 2025, following the Minister's announcement of the flightpaths on 4 June 2025, including letterbox drops, community engagement sessions and webinars. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraged members to sign up for Airservices notifications on engagement through their website so they receive any updates and information. <p>Mr Paul Veigel, Hawkesbury City Council: Can briefings be provided to FoWSA members, especially local councils surrounding the airport?</p> <p>Ms Dittmar: Airservices will be sending out invitations to local councils to attend planned briefing sessions. Councils are welcome to request further briefing.</p> <p>Mr Ryan: Asked if the locations of noise monitors had been decided?</p> <p>Ms Dittmar: The location of the portable noise monitors will depend on the outcome of Airservices expression of interest and community engagement. For the permanent noise monitors, Airservices has commenced conversations with landowners for proposed locations, but these conversations are ongoing.</p>	
5.	Update from the Airport Operator	<p>Ms Katy Hannouch and Mr Scott Ifield, WSA Co gave a presentation on the draft WSI Master Plan 2025-2045, which is currently on public exhibition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted that WSA Co have already received some submissions on the masterplan, which are mostly focused on flightpaths and public transport connectivity. WSA Co have been working closely with Airservices to ensure their consultation processes align, and to avoid consultation fatigue. Community engagement on master plan has commenced and will continue over the next few weeks. These sessions are all listed on WSA Co's website. There are 3 scheduled drop-in sessions to be held at the WSI Experience Centre at the end of July. Noted that WSA Co will set up a Community Aviation Consultation Group and a Project Coordination Forum for WSI. <p>Ms Kate Stares, Campbelltown City Council: Queried the Bradfield to Macarthur rail line not being shown on the Beyond 2030 Ground Transport slide whereas it is described in the master plan text.</p>	

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		Mr Ifield: Agreed that the image was inconsistent with the narrative and would be updated in the finalised draft master plan.	
6.	Other business	<p>Mr Henwood: Noted concerns that FoWSA is ending and there are limited future engagement opportunities for community members to have their say on WSI issues. Raised ongoing concerns around air and water quality as a result of the flightpaths over the Blue Mountains, especially regarding particulate matter in tank water.</p> <p>M Jansen: We will need to check what has been said in the EIS about air and water quality, especially concerning particulate matter in water tanks and get back to Mr Henwood and the group with some further information on this.</p> <p>Mr Jacob Idiculas, Resident of Bossley Park: Requested that as there are a number of matters that members are still interested in that are yet to be resolved by the Government, members are included on engagement lists by both Airservices and WSA Co.</p> <p>Ms Dittmar: Noted, but members should subscribe to mailing list via website.</p> <p>Mr Idiculas: Thanked the Chair, department and members for their time, effort and participation.</p> <p>Ms Templeman MP: Thanked department, members, Chair and particular mention to unpaid community representatives who have given up their time to attend FoWSA meetings for the last 8 years.</p>	
7.		The Chair concluded with a summary of today's discussion and added her thanks to Members past and present. The meeting was closed by the Chair at 12 noon.	

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Status of Outstanding Action Items

Appendix A

Meeting 7, 29 March 2019

Action Item No	Action Item	Status
6.	Secretariat to consider future presentations to FoWSA on the state of air and water quality in Western Sydney, and on the use of alternative fuels and technologies at WSA, including bioenergy.	Closed. Department to provide further information on air and water quality to members.

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Attendees

Appendix B

Lee de Winton	Chair
Gordon Henwood	Resident of Mulgoa
Jacob Idiculas	Resident of Bossley Park
Wayne Willmington	Resident of Luddenham
Gregory Copeland	Resident of Camden
Paris Buchtmann	Proxy for Anne Stanley
Kate Stares	Proxy for Lindy Dietz, Campbelltown City Council
Tracy Burgess	Proxy for Rosemary Dillon
Paul Veigel	Hawkesbury City Council
Gina Metcalfe	Bradfield City Development
Tom Smith	Aeria Management Group
Scott Mitchell	Virgin Australia
Georgina Hovell Kwaszenko	Proxy for Chris Kwong, Qantas Group
Nick Ryan	Proxy for David Borger
Julie McAlpin	Proxy for Anna Guillane
Susan Templeman MP	Federal Member for Macquarie
Mark Andrews	Office of Susan Templeman MP
Katy Hannouch	Western Sydney Airport Co
Scott Ifield	Western Sydney Airport Co
Catherine Payne	Western Sydney Airport Co
Ayse Tufanoglu	Western Sydney Airport Co
Richard Wood	DITRDCA
David Jansen	DITRDCA
Vicki Buchbach	DITRDCA
Rosalie Roberts	DITRDCA
Annette Dittmar	Airservices Australia

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Apologies

Joanne Bromilow	Resident of Blaxland
Mike Freeland MP	Federal Member for Macarthur
Melissa McIntosh MP	Federal Member for Lindsay
Anne Stanley MP	Federal Member for Werriwa
Lindy Dietz	Campbelltown City Council
Rosemary Dillon	Blue Mountains City Council
Mayor Todd Carney	Penrith City Council
Jason Breton	Liverpool City Council
Rob Walker	Regional Aviation Association of Australia
David Trevelyan	Basair
Chris Kwong	Qantas Group
David Borger	Business Western Sydney
Anna Guillane	Regional Development Australia, Sydney
Hon Angus Taylor MP	Federal Member for Hume
Mayor Matt Gould	Wollondilly Shire
Matthew Martyn-Jones	Western Sydney Airport Co