

Barton Deakin: Western Sydney Airport Plan 2016

12 December 2016

Today, The Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, and the Minister for Urban Infrastructure, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP announced the finalisation of the Western Sydney Airport Plan. The Government's determination of the Airport Plan authorises the development of the proposed airport at Badgerys Creek in Sydney's West.

Background

In March 2012 the Australian and NSW Governments were presented with the report of the [Joint Study on aviation capacity in the Sydney region](#). The report forecast demand for aviation services in the Sydney region to double over the next 20 years and that Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport could not meet Sydney's long-term aviation needs. It recommended that an additional airport would be needed to supplement the capacity of Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport.

In April 2014, the then-Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, and the then-Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Warren Truss MP, announced that the site for Western Sydney's new airport would be Badgerys Creek in Sydney's West. See our 2014 brief [here](#).

In the 2016-17 Budget the Australian Government committed \$115 million to fund planning and preparation work for the Western Sydney Airport project in the 2016 Budget. This included \$89 million to prepare the Western Sydney Airport site and \$26 million for developing the concept design for rail access through the airport site.

The Western Sydney Airport Plan

Today the Government's determination of the Western Sydney Airport Plan authorised the development of the proposed airport, expected to be operational in the mid-2020s. This is one of the largest infrastructure projects in recent years, and will be the first major greenfield airport development in decades.

The Airport Plan includes details on concept design, indicative airport layout and zoning, indicative air traffic forecasts and noise contours for the initial airport development, and plans for longer term development. See the plan [here](#).

Stage 1 of the airport will include a terminal and single runway as well as cargo facilities, dedicated maintenance areas, a public transport hub, easy-access parking from the upgraded road network and four areas set aside for business parks. Stage 1 of the development will be designed to be flexible to accommodate expansions required for anticipated growth in demand. A second parallel runway is expected to be required by around 2050.

The airport will be integrated into strategic planning for greater Sydney as part of a [City Deal for Western Sydney](#). The Australian and the NSW governments have started construction of new and upgraded roads for the proposed airport and the residents of Western Sydney, under the \$3.6 billion [Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan](#). Further, the Australian and the NSW governments are working together to undertake



the [Western Sydney Rail Needs Scoping Study](#) to examine the passenger rail transport needs of the Western Sydney region and the proposed airport. In preparation for a rail connection, the Australian Government is ensuring the airport site will be rail ready by preserving space for rail access through the airport site.

The construction period is expected to generate an additional \$1.9 billion in value add for the Western Sydney economy, and a further \$400 million across the rest of Sydney. Over the construction period for the proposed airport, over 11,000 jobs are expected to be created in the construction, engineering and professional services industries.

The Minister for the Environment and Energy Josh Frydenberg has considered the Airport Plan against the findings of the [Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\)](#) and strict conditions have been placed on the airport's development. These conditions are binding for the developer and operator of the airport.

The Government is obliged to offer the owner of Kingsford-Smith Airport the right of first refusal on the project under the terms of its 2002 privatisation.

Further information

For more information on the Western Sydney Airport, see [here](#).

To view the Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Infrastructure's joint media release, click [here](#).

For further information, please contact [Grahame Morris](#) on +61 411 222 680, [David Alexander](#) on +61 457 400 524, or [Vanessa Findlay](#) on +61407 895 813.

To stay up to date with the affairs of Coalition Governments and Oppositions around Australia, you can follow Barton Deakin on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).