

Barton Deakin Brief: Western Sydney Aerotropolis 2026

31 August 2017

On August 24, the NSW Premier, The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP announced the Aerotropolis 2026 Summit to be hosted in Sydney in 2018 to make the Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek part of a world-class precinct. This Barton Deakin Brief outlines the government’s strategic intentions for the airport and the establishment of an economic precinct surrounding it.

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Aerotropolis Summary

An aerotropolis is a metropolitan subregion where the layout, infrastructure, and economy are centred around an airport. These regions are centred around how important airports are for economic activity, largely replacing railways, ports, and highways as major sources of economic activity.

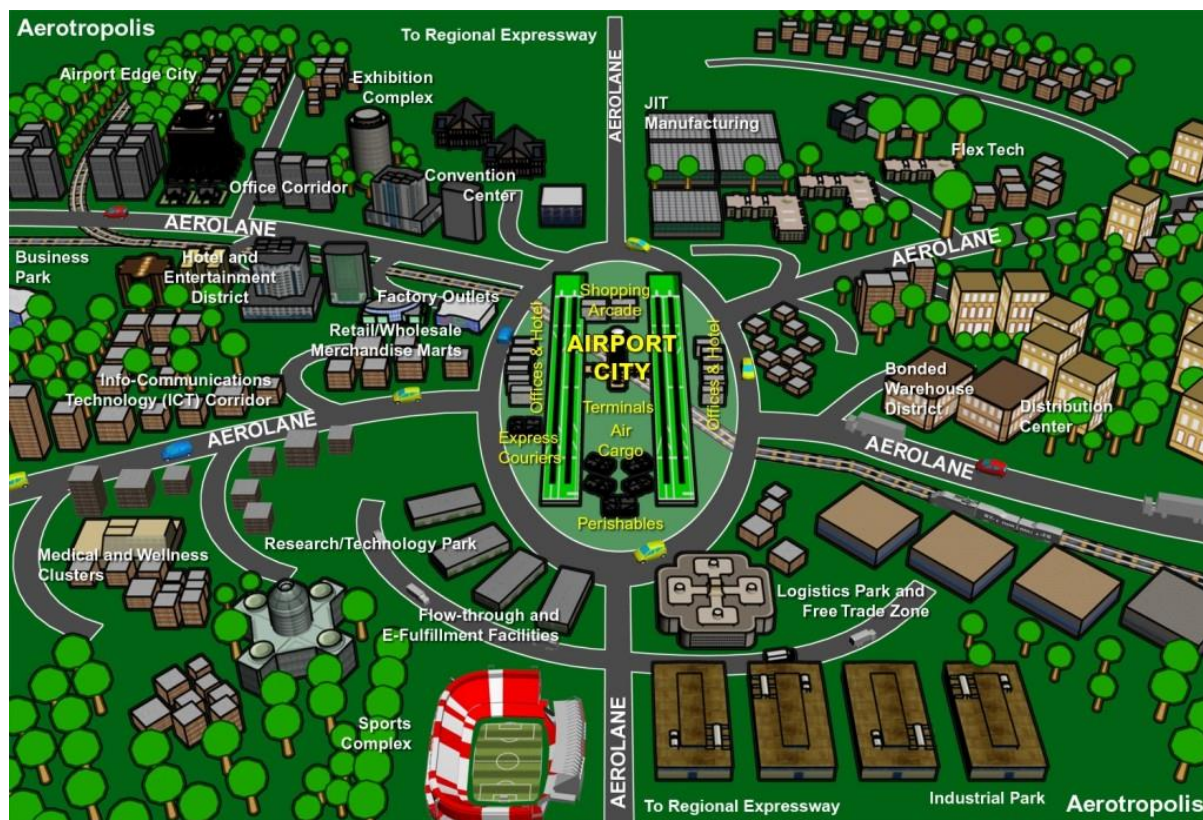


Figure 1: Example of an Aerotropolis layout

The businesses that operate in aerotropolis are more commonly reliant on distant suppliers rather than local suppliers and proximity to the airport is important for their operations. This is partially as a result of a globalised market with increased competition from overseas suppliers.

Aerotropolis can result through natural economic conditions or can be planned by the government. The aerotropolis around the new Badgerys Creek airport will be planned in conjunction with the NSW Government. This planning is being conducted with the aim of ensuring sufficient infrastructure is in place to support the aerotropolis development.

The Aerotropolis Summit

In mid-2018, the NSW, and Federal Governments will host a summit in Sydney comprising of global and local players in order to build ideas for how a special economic precinct could be constructed around the new Badgerys Creek Airport. The event will target industries such as defence, aerospace, freight and logistics, agribusiness, health, education and tourism. The Summit will be an invitation-only event, jointly hosted by the NSW and Australian Governments, who have been collaborating to maximise opportunities from unprecedented levels of infrastructure spending in Western Sydney. \$5.3 billion is being invested by the Federal Government to ensure the airport is operational by 2026.



The Premier of NSW, The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP announced the summit during her visit to South Korea's Incheon Airport, from where plans for the Western Sydney aerotropolis will be modelled. Federal Minister for Urban Infrastructure, the Hon. Paul Fletcher MP, has stated that he wants to see the job disparity between Western Sydney and the Sydney CBD addressed through the new aerotropolis and sees planning around the airport as the best way to achieve this.

In February 2017 there was a summit held for industry stakeholders that had over 150+ representatives from government, infrastructure developers, investors, aviation leaders, and industry experts. This summit was a precursor to the summit just announced for 2018. **To register interest for an invite to the 2018 summit, the organisers need to be directly contacted by phone on: 02 9368 3915.**

Opportunities

NSW Minister for Western Sydney, The Hon Stuart Ayres MP; Federal Minister for Urban Infrastructure, The Hon Paul Fletcher MP, and Federal Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, The Hon Angus Taylor MP last week met with representatives from a number of leading international companies to discuss defence and aerospace industry opportunities arising from the new Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek. The meeting, at Glenbrook RAAF Airbase with the three ministers, included the companies Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed-Martin, and Rockwell Collins. The discussion revolved around investment and jobs opportunities presented by the Australian Government's decision to deliver the new airport.

Northrop Grumman announced in May that they were committed to a \$50 million investment in the Western Sydney Airport precinct. With Northrop Grumman as the first anchor tenant the government is searching for more business investment into the aerotropolis.

Minister Paul Fletcher has estimated that 20,000 jobs will be created in the area as a result of the construction of the airport and attraction of businesses to the precinct.

WSA Co is in the process of taking procurement for the airport site for further geotechnical investigations, detailed site surveys, remediation of contaminated material, and initial bulk earthworks and stock piling. A single-package design and construction tender is expected to be issued for the main airport works, including: main bulk earthworks, runway, taxiways and aprons, terminal building, carparks and on-site roads, and drainage, utilities and lighting.

WSA Co Limited

Minister Paul Fletcher MP announced the formation of WSA Co Limited on August 7, the company responsible for the construction of the Western Sydney Airport. WSA Co will operate as a Commonwealth Company with an investment up to \$5.3 billion in equity. The current board of directors has four appointments by the federal government with expectations of further appointments in coming months. The focus areas of expertise for these new directors will be on construction and experience in Western Sydney.



WSA Co Board of Directors

Mr Paul O’Sullivan - Chair

Paul O’Sullivan is the Current Chair and former Chief Executive of Optus. He was responsible for their operations in both Singapore and Australia.

Mrs Fiona Balfour - Director

Fiona Balfour is on the Board of Airservices Australia and is a member of the Audit and Risk, Technology and Investment, and Remuneration and Human Resources committees.

Mr Tim Eddy – Director

Tim Eddy has over 30 years’ experience leading and managing in a professional services environment, most recently as Managing Partner Operations, Oceania at Ernst and Young.

Ms Christine Spring – Director

Ms Spring is an expert in aviation infrastructure development and airport operations, as well as a civil engineer with approximately 20 years' experience. Ms Spring is currently on the board of Auckland Airport.

Further Information

For the NSW Government media release click [here](#).

See our 2016 media release on the Western Sydney Airport plan [here](#).

For the Minister for Urban Infrastructure the Hon Paul Fletcher MP’s media release on discussions with companies click [here](#).

For the Minister for Urban Infrastructure the Hon Paul Fletcher MP’s media release on WSA Co click [here](#).

To read the Minister for Urban Infrastructure the Hon Paul Fletcher MP’s speech regarding the Aerotropolis Summit click [here](#).

To read the Minister for Urban Infrastructure the Hon Paul Fletcher MP’s speech on the Greater Western Sydney conference click [here](#).

For the Department of Industry’s media release on Northrop Grumann’s investment click [here](#).

For the WSA Co website click [here](#).

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