



Residents Against Western Sydney Airport Incorporated

Blaxland NSW
Email: info@rawsa.info

Update No. 9 - 28th July, 2018 – What's the latest!

Dear Members and Volunteers - Here is the latest update to keep you informed about our fight against the building of a Western Sydney Airport.

What's been done

[Jobs for the West Working Party](#)

In an earlier Newsletter we spoke about the formation of a Jobs for Western Sydney Working Party (WP) that is community based and is developing a jobs strategy to overcome the deficit of future employment opportunities for Western Sydney, Southwest Sydney and Blue Mountains areas.

While there was uncertainty for RAWSA about how the WP Report might adversely impact our campaign to stop the Western Sydney Airport (WSA) project, we decided to participate in the WP as it is not aligned to any political or commercial interests and its priority was to develop sound job creation strategies without a Western Sydney Airport.

The WP utilised the expertise of a renowned Employment Market Researcher (of 40 years experience) and consisted of members with backgrounds in local and state government, the trade union movement, universities, schools, business and the community. While RAWSA's participation was mainly to assist in sourcing research material and providing administrative support, the outcome is a Report that in many ways validates our position on WSA and highlights alternative uses for the Badgerys Creek site that will provide more quality and quantity of employment than an airport could hope to achieve.

The WP uses the latest Census data and its processes have been grounded in research data and not in the type of speculative modelling used in the government documents. The Final Report is now available on-line at: http://jobsforthewest.co/publications/main_report.pdf. The Report will be officially launched on Saturday 18th August – more about the launch later in this Newsletter. Attachment 1 in the email gives an overview of the report and we feel that its content will be of interest to you.

Submission to Senate Enquiry

Proposed by the 'Greens', legislation (Airservices Amendment Bill 2018) has been drafted; to drive transparency into the administration of Airservices Australia (AsA); to make them more accountable; and to ensure that AsA operate with more community and environmental responsibility.

Did you know that currently, although AsA is a Govt. Dept., the cost of running it is not paid for by the taxpayer – it is paid for by fees paid by the airlines - you decide whether there is a conflict of interest involved!

RAWSA made a written submission to the Senate Committee considering the Amendment Bill and subsequently was invited to address a Senate Committee Hearing in Melbourne. While the hearing was not specifically about WSA, our representative was able to highlight some of the related issues.

A Senate Report on the Bill is expected by the end of July. This legislation is important to give the community better input to the administration of AsA, the determination of flight paths and recognition of impacts that the aviation industry has on residents and the environment.

What's being done

Improving Awareness

RAWSA continues to raise awareness of the adverse impacts that an airport at Badgerys Creek would bring to our communities. This is being achieved by road-side protest events (The Wobblers), by speaking with local politicians, by briefings with Union officials and through community conversations.

In 2016, the number of people supporting the airport project was estimated as about 70% in favour and about 30% against the airport. While there is still strong WSA support in the business sector, the situation has clearly changed. The number of us ordinary folk who understand the adverse impacts of this project has now grown and community support for a 24 hour airport has significantly collapsed. ***"The gain isn't worth the pain!"***

Pushing for FOWSA transparency

The Forum on Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA) formed by Minister Fletcher to have input into flight path design and to try minimising adverse impacts continues to refuse the attendance of the public at its meetings.

Pressure already brought to bare on the group by RAWSA resulted in a series of 4 recent information sessions and one public meeting. In fairness, FOWSA was able to ensure the information sessions were staffed by people who could answer questions (unlike the so-called consultation efforts associated with the EIS). However, it is still the case of Govt. telling the community about decisions made, rather than any productive two way discussion.

Additionally, the FOWSA meeting that allowed members of the public to attend, seemed to be structured around a continuation of the 'sales pitch' format and did not involve any significant processing of flight path planning considerations or FOWSA processing of issues to minimise impacts.

RAWSA will continue to seek a more transparent and open process by FOWSA, which we believe can only be achieved by allowing members of the public to attend all FOWSA meetings as observers. You can assist in this by sending a simple email to: FOWSA@infrastructure.gov.au asking for public attendance at their meetings. If the answer continues to be NO – then ask yourself –“what have they got to hide?”

Aircraft Noise Complaints

RAWSA continues to encourage residents to submit complaints about aircraft noise from Mascot flight paths and our band of participants showed Airservices and politicians that it is not just residents living close to Mascot that are affected. Attachment 2 in the email gives an overview of Airservices 2017 Noise Complaints Report.

What's still needs to be done

Important Event

As mentioned earlier, there will be a launch of the Jobs for Western Sydney Working Party Report at:

- the **Penrith Library Theatrette**; next to Council Admin Centre, High Street Penrith
- on **Saturday 18th August** from **2 pm to 3 pm**.

The WP Report is a significant research document. Passages regarding employment analysis, high speed rail and orbital rail, challenge the viability and benefits of an airport at Badgerys Creek. It turns out that this report can make an important contribution to our collective fight against WSA and deserves RAWSA support.

Therefore, we urge as many people as possible to come along and help promote our cause by showing community support for and recognition of, this Report.

Thank you and regards,
Trevor Neal

For and on behalf of the RAWSA Management Committee