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### **RESIDENTS AND ENVIRONMENT SACRIFICED IN RACE TO BUILD BADGERYS**

The Turnbull Government's rushed and inadequate response to the Western Sydney Airport Environmental Impact Statement for Badgerys Creek Airport shows the lengths it will go to race ahead with this airport – regardless of its impact on the environment and quality of life for Blue Mountains residents.

On 15 September 2016 the final EIS was published. Now, just 58 days later, the Environment Minister is supposed to have analysed the thousands of pages of the EIS and delivered a considered verdict.

We believe the Government's approval process does not meet the tests supported by the Labor caucus that:

- The planning be right, including rail from day one
- It be a creator of good jobs for Western Sydney residents
- The community has its say and
- There is a proper environmental assessment process.

These criteria have not been met and we are greatly concerned that jobs won't be created for the region and environmental standards may be breached.

The assertions that the airport will create jobs and have limited environmental impact are not backed up by detailed analysis. Every major study is pushed into the future, and most are likely to occur after contracts have been signed.

There is no guarantee that local residents, who will bear the bulk of the negative impact of the airport, will have access to increased job opportunities. Given that this EIS itself reveals that there are no new net jobs resulting from the airport, the employment benefits will not outweigh the social and environmental costs to the community.

A decline in well-paid manufacturing jobs, as well as a loss of agricultural jobs, is also revealed in the EIS technical reports.

The Government has provided no jobs plan and no links with trades training to skill up the workforce. We believe in creating jobs, but we want well-paid and skilled jobs for Western Sydney residents, and a jobs plan on how those will be achieved. The Turnbull Government has no such plan.

The Government's proposed environmental conditions fail to protect the neighbouring Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Listing. Josh Frydenberg may well go down in history as the Environment Minister who cost Australia a World Heritage Listing.

The Minister has also approved the airport without any serious air quality studies.

### **Noise for residents**

The conditions that have been approved for an airport at Badgery's Creek confirm that lower Blue Mountains will be subject to disruptive aircraft noise 24 hours a day, 365 days per year with no protections guaranteed.

Unlike residents of the Eastern Suburbs, Inner West and North Shore affected by Kingsford Smith Airport, residents of the Western Suburbs and Blue Mountains will not have the protection of a curfew or hourly flight caps.

The approval conditions released by the Minister for Environment on Friday gives the go-ahead to the airport, despite the government's failure to include comprehensive noise plans in the final EIS.

On 6 May 2016, the Minister for Urban Infrastructure said: "Allocating the flight paths to minimise the individual impact on any one point **will form part of a comprehensive noise mitigation plan to be contained in the final EIS.**"  
The EIS does not contain those plans.

The Environment Minister has approved an airport without knowing what the flight paths will be and what the noise impacts will be on communities, schools and individuals.

Not only has the Turnbull Government failed to provide comprehensive noise mitigation, but the approvals conditions give no certainty that the commitment to use "head to head" operations overnight to reduce night time noise for residential areas will occur. The approvals document merely says the flight path design should "minimise to the extent practicable" the impact of overnight flights over residential and wilderness areas.

This will mean that the commercial imperatives and profitability of airlines and airport operator will go ahead of the best interests of the community.

If it's good enough for the rest of Sydney to be given protections through things like caps and curfews, then it's good enough for the Blue Mountains and Western

Sydney. Western Sydney and Blue Mountains residents should not be treated as second-class citizens and collateral damage of big business and the Coalition Government.