



Residents Against Western Sydney Airport Incorporated

Blaxland NSW  
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**Update -9 October 2016**

Dear Members and Volunteers,

## **Blue Mountains City Council Community Meeting**

### **On Western Sydney Airport – Glenbrook Park**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October – 3pm to 5pm**



The Blue Mountains City Council has resolved to conduct a public meeting to gain our response to the toxic WSA Airport proposal.

**If we want to stop this airport we need to be at this event and bring along as many family and friends as possible. What could be more important for the future of our communities than attending this public meeting? Pollies do take notice of communities in action so let's be there in huge numbers!**

**Why should we be concerned?**

RAWSA attended the recent Government's EIS briefing session and it was disturbing. Despite nearly 80% of the 5,000 EIS submissions coming from the Blue Mountains' communities we have been ignored. RAWSA questioned the officials on their noise modelling and whether they acknowledged that Blue Mountains' residents have a higher sensitivity than urban communities because of our lower ambient background noise environment. They

acknowledged this fact, verbally, but confirmed, formally, that such sensitivities of Blue Mountains dwellers is not given any consideration in the EIS.

To properly assess environmental impacts one must know where the planes will fly, right? Wrong, according to the EIS officials. They say that a comprehensive airspace planning and design process has not been undertaken and it would take several years before one would be even be started. Therefore, the so called "indicative flight paths" in the EIS are meaningless.

RAWSA asked the obvious question, of the officials, as to how they can reconcile the unknowingness of future flight paths with the confidence they express in the EIS stating "...the airport will not have a significant impact on the World Heritage values ... or result in attributes of the GBMWA being lost..."? They say that their confidence is based on a fact that planes would be at least 5,000 feet above GBMWA. How can they say such a thing when the GBMWA is a mere 7 kilometres from the airport site and future flight paths are unknown? And anyone that has walked the tracks within our beautiful Blue Mountains would know that the appearance, and sound, of a plane at 5,000 feet would be imposing and detract from the very reason for granting the World Heritage listing.

RAWSA questioned officials over why the full burden of growing travel demand had to fall upon aviation only especially with over 70% of current air travel in Australia being domestic east coast. The officials acknowledged the alternate and complementary options of high speed rail, however, it was clear that the Federal Government is not interested in such ideas. Their attitude is short sighted, simplistic and not innovative at all.

So it looks like the Federal Govt. will try to ram through the EIS but such an approval does not an airport make. The Badgerys Creek airport has been approved in the past but a lack of will prevented it from being built and this is where we step in.

Even if the EIS is approved there will be a battle of wills between the Federal Govt. and Sydney Airports Corporation whom by previous public statements have serious misgivings about building an airport that would cost billions to build with no guarantee of profits and every likelihood of diluting the profitability of Sydney Airport, their jewel in the crown.

Sydney Airports Corporation will be seeking huge concessions from our taxes to build the airport whilst the Federal Govt. will be loathed to provide hand-outs from an ever diminishing pool of tax payers' dollars and to an extremely profitable monopoly corporation.

The more noise we make the harder it will be, so we at RAWSA are looking forward to seeing you at the Blue Mountains Council Community meeting on Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup> October. And keep an eye for further public events which are currently in the planning.

In other news RAWSA is going global and starting to collaborate with airport protests groups both interstate and internationally. The photo above is on its way to the Global Airports Action Group whom we have been engaging with to provide moral support and share experiences, research material, campaign ideas and long term strategies.

And remember, please keep up your letters to the Blue Mountains Gazette and of course to key politicians and local MPS.

MP for Macquarie, Susan Templeman, at [susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au)

MP for Lindsay, Emma Hussar, at [emma.husar.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:emma.husar.mp@aph.gov.au)

Environment Minister Josh Frydenburg at email [josh.frydenburg.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:josh.frydenburg.mp@aph.gov.au)

Paul Fletcher, Urban Infrastructure Minister, at [paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au)

Tony Burke, Shadow Environment Minister, at [tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au)

Anthony Albanese, Shadow Infrastructure Minister, at [a.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:a.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au)

Doug Cameron, Senator for NSW, at [senator.cameron@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.cameron@aph.gov.au)

Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister, at [www.pm.gov.au/contact/your-pm](http://www.pm.gov.au/contact/your-pm)

Bill Shorten, Leader of the Opposition, at [bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au)

See you all on the 15<sup>th</sup> October!

Peter Dollin