



Residents Against Western Sydney Airport Incorporated

Blaxland NSW  
Email: [info@rawsa.info](mailto:info@rawsa.info)

## **Update – December 2016**

Dear Members and Volunteers,

As the Blue Mountains Mayor, Mark Greenhill, said recently if the approval of the WSA Airport EIS is Malcolm Turnbull's idea of a Christmas present then he will be handing back on Boxing Day. And we couldn't agree more. There was never any question that the Turnbull Government was going to approve its own EIS regardless of it being full of omissions, inaccuracies and flaws. However, the Sydney Airports Corporation will be more discerning about spending the billions of dollars it will take to build this white elephant so we still have a long way to go in this campaign to protect the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney from this threat.

Throughout 2016 RAWSA has been active in lobbying politicians to fight against a Western Sydney Airport (WSA) and to broaden awareness to Western Sydney and Blue Mountains communities, of the adverse impacts that this proposal would have on our area. Efforts have included both publicly visible campaigns and 'behind the scenes' interaction with decision makers. We continue co-ordinated activities with Blue Mountains Conservation Society; NoBCA; Blacktown and Blue Mountains Councils; and local Members of Parliament who support our cause. And despite the Penrith Council's weak position throughout the EIS process it is pleasing to see that newly elected Councillor Ben Price has called for Penrith Council to withdraw its support for the airport project (*Western Weekender 16/12/16*).

### **Activities Summary for 2016**

From a starting point in 2015 of just 7 people, RAWSA support has grown to 136 members and volunteers. This does not include our website and over 2,800 Facebook followers.

During the past 12 months activities include:

- Delivery of over 50,000 leaflets to homes (with NoBCA and B.M. Conservation Society),
- Information stalls at Penrith Paceway Markets (5 times) and the Katoomba Winter Magic Festival,
- Program of referenced research papers and factsheets being published for use in our campaigns,
- Organisational and individual letter writing campaigns,
- Information posts and pro-forma letters for others to copy on website and Facebook,
- Pre-election protest rallies at Springwood, Penrith, Windsor, Mulgoa, Glenbrook and Blaxland,
- Pre and post-election airport impact awareness campaigns,
- On-going aircraft noise complaint submission campaign,
- Fortnightly wobble boarding/shopping centre walk through campaign across Penrith Council area,
- Attendance at Penrith Council meetings (3 times), Blue Mountains Council meetings (4 times) and Baulkham Hills Council protest meeting (with NoBCA),
- En-mass attendance at Glenbrook and Springwood public rallies,
- Liaison, info and strategy sharing with global community groups fighting their own local airport issues. This shows that Govt.s and airport proponents around the world, are using the same deceptive tactics,
- Attended Sydney Airport Community Forum (2 times), gaining added insight to problems WSA would cause,
- Representation on the Blue Mountains Mayoral Reference Group advising the Mayor on campaign strategies and activities,
- Additionally RAWSA Committee Members have carried out positive briefing sessions with:
  - Susan Templeman – Labor Member for Macquarie

- Ed Husic - Shadow Minister for the Digital Economy and Labor Member for Chifley
- Lee Rhiannon – Greens Senator and Leader
- Michelle Rowland - Shadow Minister for Communications and Labor Member for Greenway
- Tony Burke - Shadow Minister for Environment & Water and Labor Member for Watson
- Various Independent, Greens, CDP, Labor and Liberal Candidates, prior to Fed. & Council elections
- Anne Stanley – Labor Member for Werriwa
- Mike Freeland – Labor Member for Macarthur
- Meeting pre-release of EIS, in Canberra, with Liberal Ministers Freedenberg and Fletcher
- Anthony Albanese - Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities & Regional Development and Labor Member for Grayndler. He was not so positive and still believes the WSA is a good thing and that it is not the planes that pollute, it is the cars and trucks! And,
- Liaising with the Legal Professionals to investigate options for possible legal action against the airport.

## Activities Planned for 2017

With the Federal Government approving the flawed EIS for the airport project, it is very apparent that they are in an indecent haste to bully the project through as they can see that there is a groundswell of community opposition to the plan. The community is becoming more informed and aware of the negative impacts and the social inequity between the East and West as shown by their callous by not affording us any protection from 24/7 flight operations.

This is evidenced by:

- Their rock solid support of curfew for people in the East from Sydney Airport but not extending the same basic human right to Western Sydney residents from WSA.
- The 41 conditions that Minister Frydenberg placed on the development of the airport are absolutely meaningless as they amount to nothing more than broad ‘motherhood statements’, completely devoid of any quantified measures to be implemented.
- While certain politicians believe their jobs will be easier without constant complaints from their constituents about aircraft noise from Sydney Airport, the building of WSA will ensure that all Western Sydney politicians will be condemned to a future of constant harassment from their constituents and for good reason,
- With increasing job replacing technology rampant in the aviation industry, the majority of forecast jobs that the airport might bring to the area, will not occur for between 20 and 50 years from now.
- The fact that all impacts assessments in the Airport EIS were processed without knowing where the flight paths will be located. Airspace design and flight path location will not be defined until after the airport is constructed.

In regard to this final point, such deceptive, unjustifiable and inappropriate assessments have contributed to a ‘corruption of due process’ and reinforced in the community mind that the Western Sydney Airport project is all about pandering to Big Business at the expense of social and environmental impacts for Blue Mountains and Western Sydney communities.

Regardless of the Federal Government’s EIS approval, this is just one of many steps the Govt. has to go through and reflects the same stage that was reached in the late 1990’s when community pressure increased and stopped the airport project at that time.

It is for these reasons and more - that RAWSA believes the time has arrived to step up campaigning and will be looking to members, volunteers and the broader community to assist with activities in 2017, such as:

- RAWSA’s Annual General Meeting in February (date & venue to be advised) where time will be put aside to discuss current and future strategies and campaign activities,
- Promote alternative uses for the Badgerys Creek site,

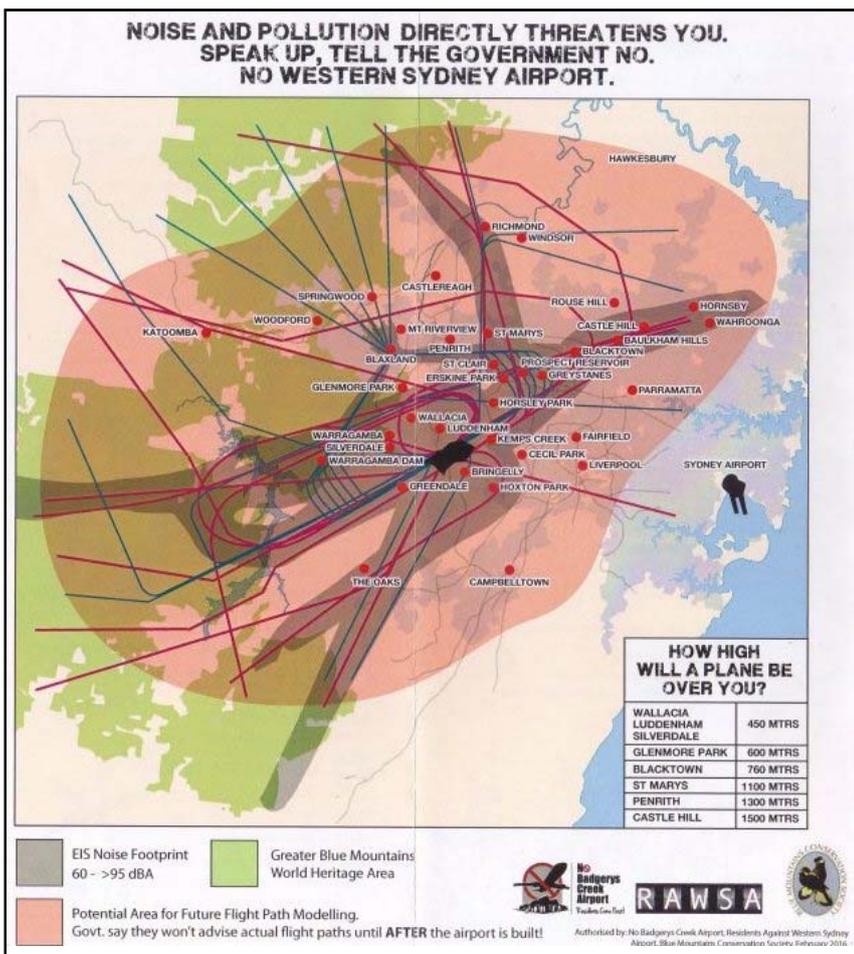
- Advocate for a Sydney to Melbourne High Speed Rail solution as a more employment beneficial, more environmentally sustainable and a common-sense alternative to dumping another airport in the pollution sensitive Sydney basin,
- Targeted letter writing using material from research papers,
- Targeted letter writing to supporters of the airport requesting an explanation of their support in regard to the poor assessment processes, the social inequities and the inadequacies of the EIS,
- A pending mass meeting at Blacktown (date and venue to be advised) for people across Blue Mountains and Western Sydney coordinated by the Blacktown and Blue Mountains Councils,
- Upcoming meeting with EDO regarding the legal position, and
- Organising a group trip to Canberra to protest outside Parliament House.

RAWSA will continue to lobby politicians from all parties. Arrangements currently in place for meetings with:

- Chris Bowen – Labor Member for McMahon and Shadow Treasurer
- Emma Husar – Labor Member for Lindsay

### What you can do to Help

Everyone reading this newsletter will be aware that for you, your friends and neighbours, there will be no net benefits from this 24 hour per day 7 days per week airport, that the impacts will all be adverse and that the idea this airport will bring jobs is just a myth. Those that benefit from this airport are not those living underneath it!



**WHAT CAN I DO?**

**WRITE LETTERS**

Write letters to your local newspapers and federal politicians telling them that you do not want this airport and why. Tell them their support for this airport is a lost vote.

**Paul Fletcher, Urban Infrastructure Minister**  
paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au

**Josh Frydenberg, Environment Minister**  
josh.frydenberg.mp@aph.gov.au

**Doug Cameron, Senator for NSW**  
senator.cameron@aph.gov.au

**Tony Burke, Shadow Environment Minister**  
tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au

**Anthony Albanese, Shadow Infrastructure Minister**  
a.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au

**Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister**  
www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm

**Bill Shorten, Leader of the Opposition**  
bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au

**Western Sydney MPs**

Lindsay - Emma Husar - emma.husar.mp@aph.gov.au  
 Macarthur - Mike Freelander - mike.freelander.mp@aph.gov.au  
 McMahon - Chris Bowen - chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au  
 Chifley - Ed Husic - ed.husic.mp@aph.gov.au  
 Greenway - Michelle Rowland - michelle.rowland.mp@aph.gov.au  
 Fowler - Chris Hayes - chris.hayes.mp@aph.gov.au  
 Mitchell - Alex Hawke - alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au  
 Werriwa - Anne Stanley - anne.stanley.mp@aph.gov.au

**TALK**

Talk to your friends, family and neighbours and stop the airport.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- NOBCA ([www.nobca.org.au](http://www.nobca.org.au))
- RAWSA ([www.rawsa.info](http://www.rawsa.info))
- Blue Mountains Conservation Society ([www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au))

Spread the word.

You can help the cause in the following ways:

- Continue to comment and share information and opinions on Facebook,
- Back up your Facebook comments with letters – this can be done by simply copying (in whole or part) pro-forma letters displayed on website / Facebook and sending them by email to Politicians.

- Inform family, friends and neighbours about the airport impacts and encourage them to participate,
- Donate to RAWSA at [www.birdsnotboeings.com/donate-now](http://www.birdsnotboeings.com/donate-now) to assist us in campaigning events – any amount is welcomed,
- Write, and continue writing, to the Federal Government and the Federal Opposition and tell them that they will not win the next election if they continue with this airport project.
- In separate follow emails we will send you our Blue Mountains and Western Sydney airport flyers that can be printed on a home or office printer if you would like to get involved in spreading the word!

As the year draws to a close, our thoughts will naturally move towards spending Christmas with family and friends, as well as having a break from airport issues. However, as 2017 unfolds, it is vitally important to return to the fight against this ill thought-out and outdated project that will have harmful effects for many generations to come.

In the meantime, on behalf of the RAWSA Management Committee, I wish you all a safe and very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter Dollin  
**President**  
**Residents Against Western Sydney Airport**  
**RAWSA**

**Contact email addresses of key politicians;**

Paul Fletcher, Urban Infrastructure Minister, [paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Josh Frydenberg, Environment Minister, [josh.frydenberg.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:josh.frydenberg.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Doug Cameron, Senator for NSW, [senator.cameron@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.cameron@aph.gov.au)  
 Tony Burke, Shadow Environment Minister, [tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Anthony Albanese, Shadow Infrastructure Minister, [a.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:a.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister, [www.pm.gov.au/contact/your-pm](http://www.pm.gov.au/contact/your-pm)  
 Bill Shorten, Leader of the Opposition, [bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Western Sydney MPs  
 Macquarie - Susan Templeman - [susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Lindsay - Emma Husar - [emma.husar.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:emma.husar.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Macarthur - Mike Freeland - [mike.freeland.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:mike.freeland.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 McMahan - Chris Bowen - [chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Chifley - Ed Husic - [ed.husic.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:ed.husic.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Greenway - Michelle Rowland - [michelle.rowland.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:michelle.rowland.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Fowler - Chris Hayes - [chris.hayes.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:chris.hayes.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Mitchell - Alex Hawke - [alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 Werriwa - Anne Stanley - [anne.stanley.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:anne.stanley.mp@aph.gov.au)