

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Update from the 19th meeting held on 18 March 2023

Chair's message



The Forum on Western Sydney Airport (FoWSA) held its first meeting for the year on 18 March 2023. This meeting was open to members of the public to attend and observe.

At the meeting, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts (the Department) informed FoWSA that the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for preliminary flight paths will be released in the second half of 2023.

The Department also launched the Online Community Portal website, www.wsiflightpaths.gov.au, which is a 'one stop shop' for the public to access information about the draft EIS, flight path design process, and upcoming community engagement activities. This Portal will be updated throughout 2023 to include an interactive aircraft overflight noise tool and the draft EIS.

In its update to FoWSA members, the Department gave an update on the ongoing work towards securing environmental offsets for protected species and ecosystems resulting from the airport development. An update was also given on the process to develop the Aviation White Paper, which will set the Government's long-term vision for aviation, guide continued recovery of the sector and identify opportunities for sustainability and engagement with the community.

To70, the Department's airspace design consultant, provided a comprehensive presentation on the flight path design process that is informing the design of the preliminary flight paths. This presentation was well received by both FoWSA members and the public audience, and will be available to download on the FoWSA website (www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/fowsa).

WSP Australia, the Department's stakeholder and community engagement consultant, updated members on the outcomes of community engagement activities to date, and the proposed community and stakeholder engagement plan for the remainder of 2023, which will focus on raising public awareness of the preliminary flight paths and EIS process.

The Western Sydney Airport Company updated attendees on construction works and the community engagement they have undertaken.

Finally, the Department addressed submitted questions from the public on the EIS process, community engagement, consultation, flight paths, aircraft noise, noise mitigation, biodiversity, environment, the airport and aircraft operations. Full answers to all submitted questions will be available on the FoWSA website (www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au/fowsa).

I thank FoWSA members for making the time to attend this meeting, which was held on a weekend to enable participation by community members, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in what will be a busy and important year for FoWSA.

Lee de Winton
Independent Chair, Forum on Western Sydney Airport

What's been happening?



Continuing community engagement

At the open FoWSA meeting, the Department commenced its next phase of engagement to prepare the public for public exhibition of the draft EIS.

The Department will be undertaking a round of community information stalls between March and May across the greater Western Sydney and Blue Mountains areas. These stalls will focus on building awareness of the future draft EIS release and consultation process, and the release of the interactive flight paths and noise tool.

The Department has prepared new and updated written materials to support these engagements, including a new project information brochure and new fact sheets explaining different technical aspects of the flight path design and assessment process.

There will be a focus on engaging culturally and linguistically diverse communities and informing the broader public about how they can contribute to the EIS process. The Department will also be undertaking further briefings with stakeholder groups and local councils.

Launch of the Online Community Portal website

The Online Community Portal (OCP) is a 'one stop shop' for all things flight paths related. The purpose of releasing the OCP now is for members of the public to become familiar with it so that when the aircraft overflight noise tool and draft EIS are released they know where to find the information. The OCP will also enhance people's understanding of the EIS process and how they will be able to provide feedback on the draft EIS, when released.



www.wsiflightpaths.gov.au

The OCP already contains a range of resources, including fact sheets on the flight path design and EIS process. The OCP also has a 3D virtual community information stall that gives people an interactive and immersive way to access information. Details for upcoming community information stalls are available on the OCP.

Upcoming FoWSA meetings – indicative program

June 2023 – prior to the release of the aircraft overflight noise tool

Late 2023 – during the public exhibition of the draft EIS