

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Forum on Western Sydney Airport - Record of Meeting 23

10:00am –12:30pm, Thursday 14 March 2023

Western Sydney Conference Centre

83 Mulgoa Rd, Penrith NSW 2750

Chair: Ms Lee de Winton

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
1.	Welcome from Chair, confirmation of the agenda and opening remarks	<p>The Chair, Ms Lee de Winton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opened the meeting by formally acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was held.• Welcomed everyone to the 23rd Forum on Western Sydney Airport (FoWSA) meeting, the first meeting for 2024.• Noted changes in FoWSA representation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Hon Marise Payne has resigned from FoWSA and has taken up an appointment as Vice Chancellor’s Fellow and Professor of Practice in International Relations and Public Policy at Western Sydney University.- Mr Steve Campbell, CEO Regional Aviation Associations Australia (RAAA) has moved on from his role and Mr Rob Walker the new CEO for RAAA will be the representative for RAAA going forward.- Cr Eddie Dogramaci (Hawkesbury City Council) has resigned from FoWSA and Cr Paul Veigel from Hawkesbury City Council will be the representative for the council going forward.- Acknowledgment that Ms Anna Pritchard, Qantas Airways will be replaced by Chris Kwong of Qantas Airways.• Noted the apologies to the meeting (refer to Appendix B for attendees).	

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
2.	Action Items	<p>Ms de Winton, Chair of FoWSA, noted that there were four action items from the last meeting. The Secretariat provided the action items to members on the 23 November 2023. All action items to be closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action item 1: Secretariat to share link to Western Sydney Airport Precinct Portal with FoWSA Members. • Action item 2: Secretariat to share a link to ‘Aircraft in Your Neighbourhood’ online tool with FoWSA members. • Action item 3: Secretariat to share a copy of mailout flyer with FoWSA members. • Action item 4: Secretariat to share details of upcoming Airservices Australia engagement activities with FoWSA members. <p>The FoWSA Secretariat also noted that there remain two open action items from Meeting 20, including an action for FoWSA to receive briefings from Transport for NSW and the Western Parkland City Authority (WPCA) on infrastructure activity in Western Sydney at the next meeting.</p>	
3.	Draft EIS submissions overview, themes and next steps	<p>Presentation on the draft EIS submissions</p> <p>Ms Caitlin Bennett, WSP Australia, provided the group with an update on the submissions and categorisation of submissions received during the exhibition of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).</p> <p>Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP, Member for Lindsay, queried the statistic of submissions with ‘comment/position not clearly stated’ being 69% of submissions. Mrs McIntosh asked what a submission where a position is not clearly stated looks like? Ms Bennett explained that the majority of submissions provided commentary on the draft EIS but neither explicitly stated an objection to the preliminary flight paths proposal or support for the proposal. Ms Lulu Ou, officer from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional</p>	

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
		<p>Development, Communications and the Arts (the department), clarified that submissions in this category include those that expressed concern about lack of curfew but did not object to the flight paths and those that expressed concern about the assessment of certain topics in the draft EIS.</p> <p>Ms de Winton asked if some submissions that raise multiple issues would fall into multiple categories for issues raised during sorting of the submissions. Ms Bennett stated multiple submissions raise a multitude of key issues and that submission will be categorised against multiple issues.</p> <p>Ms Susan Templeman MP, Member for Macquarie, queried how many submissions are represented in the analysis of data in the presentation. Ms Bennett advised they are still categorising submissions process and the data covers about 7,000 submissions out of approximately 8,500. Further, WSP Australia is also auditing the data to make sure they are consistently categorising the submissions.</p> <p>The Hon John Ajaka, CEO of Liverpool City Council, queried whether the number of submissions in the human health category are linked to aircraft noise issues and concerns given the high number of submissions raising the latter issue. Ms Bennett stated that most submissions raising health as an issue relate to noise and there are also some that relate to air quality.</p> <p>Ms Templeman asked at what point in this process do the alternative flight paths suggestions get to the design team. Mr David Jansen, from the department, explained the triage process; as the submissions have been coming in, the department's team have been reviewing them for alternative flight path suggestions, and submissions which raise alternative suggestions are referred to the design team straight away for consideration. Mr Jansen explained that this process is happening in parallel with the process being undertaken by WSP Australia.</p>	

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
		<p>Mrs McIntosh asked how mitigation measures that are raised in submissions are considered in the noise insulation policy process. Mr Jansen explained that, similar to other issues raised in submissions, the comments are being collated and will be responded to in the public submissions report. The relevant comments will be considered in formulating the final policy.</p> <p>Mr Peter Munro, representative from Aeria Management Group, queried whether calls for an expansion of the Noise Insulation and Property Acquisition policy in submissions from aerodromes and councils in areas impacted by facilitated changes would be considered. Mr Jansen advised it is too early to say what the final policy will be, as the department is still considering submissions received.</p> <p>Ms Templeman queried if different weighting is being given to different submitters e.g. between individuals, professional experts, councils etc. Ms Bennett explained they treat every submission equally, but if there is a detailed technical matter raised they will look at those in more detail and they will be referred to the specialist in that area to provide a response.</p> <p>In response to the hot spot map of submissions in the presentation, Mr Scott MacKillop, from WSA Co, queried how many submissions from certain areas were form submissions. Ms Bennett stated that a significant proportion of submissions were form submissions, including from Linden and Faulconbridge.</p> <p>Mr MacKillop asked whether there is a view on how the community consultation for the draft EIS ranks in terms of consultations for other projects. Ms Deborah Palmer, from WSP Australia, stated it is the largest she has worked on in terms of reach and members consulted. One of the key points from the market research was that a letterbox drop was the preferred method for consultation. The department and Airservices Australia (Airservices) both completed a letterbox drop, one during the draft flight paths release phase and one during the draft EIS release phase. This included further community</p>	

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
		<p>information and feedback sessions (CIFS), community information stalls, handouts of postcards at train stations and an extensive social media campaign.</p> <p>Mr MacKillop asked how the number of people impacted by the preliminary flight paths compares with the number of submissions received. Ms Palmer explained this is difficult to quantify and it will depend on how a person defines impact. Ms Palmer considered the number of submissions received to be a good amount. It was noted that in the breakdown of submissions by category, not a lot raised consultation as an issue.</p> <p>Ms de Winton commented on the achievement that was the department’s letterbox drop on the release of the preliminary flight paths, which spanned across 12 local government areas and reached nearly 1 million homes, followed by Airservices’ letterbox drop on the release of the draft EIS that reached 1.6 million homes across Greater Sydney.</p> <p>Ms Templeman urged that the form submissions be given equal weight during consideration, as in her experience this occurs when there is a large amount of community action and community-wide discussion such as that which took place in Linden. Ms Templeman noted that not everyone has the ability to write a complex submission and often they find a form submission sums up what they want to say about the project.</p> <p>Mrs McIntosh requested that it to be noted that only three community engagements were conducted in the Lindsay Electorate. Mrs McIntosh advised she supplemented this with letters to her constituents encouraging them to make a submission. She further queried if there will there be a breakdown of issues in respective postcodes provided. Ms Bennett stated the intent is for the submissions report to use the postcode data to link issues raised to locations. Mrs McIntosh asked if that would enable the government to target individual communities for the issues raised. Mr Jansen noted that the EIS is a process is to assess the flight paths against the requirements in the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p>	

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
		<p>Mayor Todd Carney, Penrith City Council, requested the data of the number of submissions received by postcode. The department undertook to provide this information to the group.</p> <p>Mr Munro commented about the inconvenience and impracticality of the consultation over the Christmas period. Ms de Winton advised that this has been raised and highlighted at previous FoWSA meetings and advance notice was provided to the community. Including when the draft EIS would be released and the increase in the consultation period.</p> <p>Update from the department</p> <p>Mr Jansen provided the group with an update on work the department has completed for WSI. In addition to the submission categorisation, the submissions received that suggest alternative flight paths have been triaged to the Technical Working Group to review. Those submissions are considered in detail due to the ability for flyability and technical considerations, this is a significant process. The final EIS and Noise Insulation and Property Acquisition (NIPA) policy is expected to be released later this year. The NIPA policy is a key mitigation strategy for the airport.</p> <p>Mr Jansen advised members that the department will publish submissions in two batches with the first batch including local councils, MPs, community organisations, aviation industry and form submissions. The aim is for publication by the end of March. The second batch consisting of individual non-form submissions is expected to be published in May. The longer time period is required for the team to redact personal information from each submission.</p> <p>Mr Jansen advised members that the Aviation White Paper is expected to be released in mid-2024.</p>	<p>ACTION ITEM: Department to provide a breakdown of the number of submissions received by postcode data.</p>

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
		<p>Lastly, Mr Jansen provided members with an update on the biodiversity offset activities for the airport. Since the last update was provided to FoWSA, the department has secured biodiversity credits to offset the following listed matters: River Flat Eucalypt Forest, Freshwater Wetlands and Southern Myotis (vulnerable bat). To date, the department has satisfied 9 of its 12 ecosystem and species credit offset requirements.</p>	
4.	Draft EIS engagement update and final tranche of market research	<p>Ms Deb Palmer, from WSP Australia, provided an update on engagement since the last FoWSA meeting and the end of the exhibition period of the draft EIS as well as an overview of the preliminary results from the last tranche of market research for the project.</p> <p>Mr Munro queried whether the preliminary result that 25% of people surveyed remembered they received information in their letterbox was a good number. Ms Palmer considered this is a reasonable result and noted that this question was also asking people to recall memories over a 6-month period. Ms Palmer stated that the letterbox drops were implemented based on feedback from the first and second tranche of research that found letterbox drop is the preferred method by which the community wanted to receive this information.</p> <p>In response to the list of councils in the presentation that had received briefs on the draft EIS following the last FoWSA meeting, Mrs McIntosh asked if this is the first time the councils had been engaged and briefed. Ms Palmer explained that the presentation does not list all the briefings to local councils only the ones since the last FoWSA meeting. Local councils have been briefed extensively and have been offered additional briefings through the entire process. Ms Lulu Ou explained that for most of the Western Sydney local councils this was the second briefing on the flight paths and draft EIS. The briefings had been further expanded to include councils in greater Sydney, which set out the facilitated impacts.</p> <p>Mr Munro queried if the market research has tracked sentiment with awareness. Ms Palmer explained that sentiment was not the purpose of the research, but to gauge the</p>	<p>ACTION ITEM: Department to provide an update on results from the final tranche of market research at the next FoWSA.</p>

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
		<p>communication preferences of community members, which is why only awareness was asked in the survey.</p> <p>Mayor Carney stated the general awareness seems pretty low. He expressed concern previously raised that awareness in St Clair remains low for a community that is heavily impacted. Ms Palmer reiterated all the different methods used to reach impacted communities and thanked FoWSA members for helping to get the messaging out.</p> <p>Ms de Winton reminded FoWSA members that they have a responsibility to inform their communities about planning and progress of the airport project and to share information that is raised in FoWSA with their constituents. In turn, FoWSA members can raise community concerns to be discussed at FoWSA meetings.</p> <p>Mr MacKillop advised that WSA Co has done their own research which shows that awareness in the community is high, and they see it increasing over time.</p>	
5.	Update from the Air Navigation Service Provider	<p>Ms Annette Dittmar, from Airservices, provided FoWSA members with an update on the supplementary engagement undertaken by her team to support the draft EIS exhibition. Airservices also supported the department with flight path designers at the community information and feedback sessions, a letterbox drop and email notifications.</p> <p>Mr David Wells, Airservices, provided the members with information on the Digital Aerodrome Services (DAS) for the airport. He explained the DAS will have a panorama of screens that shows the airport and can zoom in on hot spot locations. Drone surveys have been completed to optimise the design of the DAS.</p> <p>In response to the mention of aircraft maintaining safe separation and flyability during Airservices' presentation, Ms Templeman queried what flyability means in relation to flight paths. Ms Dittmar explained it means a flight path the aircraft can fly in relation aircraft specifications. i.e. turn rates or climb rates of an aircraft.</p>	<p>ACTION ITEM: Airservices to present on the aviation and firefighting station being built at WSI.</p>

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
		<p>Mr Munro queried if there could be a scenario in the future where all the airports in the Sydney basin could become DAS and all Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) work from the hub. Mr Wells said Airservices will continue to assess when other towers can become candidates for this system. Mr Munro asked whether use of DAS leads to greater efficiency. Mr Wells explained that efficiency in the system is better utilised in the approach centre, which is what flight path design should consider. What the DAS will do is to help provide staffing resilience across the air traffic control network.</p> <p>Mr Jacob Idiculas, community representative and resident of Bossley Park, enquired what the upskilling or training requirements for the ATCs for DAS would be. Mr Wells explained the Civil Aviation Safety Authority has provisioned the regulations to allow the use of this technology. The ATCs will then be trained and rated for the technology. This will become part of the standard training all ATCs receive.</p> <p>Ms de Winton queried the failure rate of the DAS currently operational in Europe. Mr Wells stated that it is no different to a physical ATC tower, with all contingencies being the same standards as a physical tower. Mr Wells further explained that DAS will need to ensure sufficient redundancy and resilience that matches the current standards.</p> <p>Ms Templeman was interested to understand how FoWSA members can give communities confidence around DAS since WSI may appear to be a DAS test case in Australia. Mr Wells assured members that WSI is not a test case for the technology; that it will be Australia's first instance of the technology. Mr Wells explained the network is resilient and this resilience is built into the facilities. DAS is already in use in Europe.</p> <p>Ms Templeman wanted to understand what further training is required for the ATC's. Mr Wells explained that Airservices will work with the provider of the technology to harness their experience. It will be very similar to when Airservices went from paper to electronic strips in the main towers across Australia.</p>	

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
		<p>Ms Templeman queried how DAS will improve airport operations in fog. Mr Wells explained DAS will deliver a state-of-the-art system that will interface with WSI air ground lighting system known as ‘follow the green’. This will allow ATCs to light up specific taxiways in green to allow pilots to follow the route from the apron to the runway. This will increase safety in low visibility operations like fog, and allow more aircraft to taxi at a time, which is what slows operations in fog. There will also be infrared cameras to improve the ATCs’ visual pictures in the DAS.</p>	
6.	Update from WSA Co Limited (WSA Co)	<p>Mr Scott MacKillop from WSA Co provided members with an update on the WSI construction and activities since the last FoWSA meeting in November 2023. Mr MacKillop also presented on the importance of WSI being a curfew-free airport, and the results of WSA Co’s recent ‘pulse’ survey’ which showed an increase in positive sentiment to WSI in each greater Western Sydney Local Government Area except for Parramatta and Canterbury-Bankstown.</p> <p>Mr Munro queried when the business precinct will open at WSI. Mr MacKillop advised the plan is to open the business precinct slightly before the airport opening.</p> <p>Mr Munro also asked what the decline was in sentiment in Canterbury-Bankstown for WSI in relation to WSA Co’s pulse survey. Mr MacKillop advised that he would follow this up.</p>	
7.	Next meeting and other business	<p>The Chair thanked the department, WSP Australia, Airservices and WSA Co for their presentations and the work they are doing to engage and consult with community.</p> <p>The Chair advised members that the next FoWSA meeting will be 25 July 2024. The meeting will be online. The FoWSA Secretariat will send out a placeholder.</p> <p>Mr Wayne Willmington, community representative and resident of Luddenham, advised FoWSA that he attended an Aerotropolis planning meeting last week where he raised concerns about the planning future of Luddenham Village. He was told at this meeting that the NSW State Government is waiting on information from the Federal Government in</p>	

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Item	Description	Key Discussion Points	Action Items
		order to provide a response on the future of Luddenham Village. Mr Jansen advised that he had not been approached by NSW Government officials about this matter. Mr Willmington will provide the details to Mr Jansen.	
		The meeting was closed by the Chair at 12.35pm.	

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Status of Outstanding and Ongoing Action Items

Appendix A

Meeting 1, 26 May 2017

Action Item No	Action Item	Status
4.	FoWSA Secretariat to distribute meeting papers to members electronically one week in advance of FoWSA	Ongoing

Meeting 7, 29 March 2019

Action Item No	Action Item	Status
6.	Secretariat to consider future presentations to FoWSA on the state of air and water quality in Western Sydney, and on the use of alternative fuels and technologies at WSA, including bioenergy	Ongoing

Meeting 11, 19 June 2020

Action Item No	Action Item	Status
2.	Ongoing action for Secretariat to collect suggestions from members for future FoWSA meeting topics	Ongoing

Meeting 20, 27 June 2023

Action Item No	Action Item	Status
1.	FoWSA Secretariat to provide members with weekly update on planned community engagement activities.	Ongoing
2.	The Department to ensure the release of the preliminary flight paths can be found on its website at www.infrastructure.gov.au	Ongoing

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

3.	FoWSA to receive an update from Transport for NSW next year on the transport projects to support the opening of WSI.	Open. To be provided at future meeting in 2024.
4.	FoWSA to receive briefing from WPCA on infrastructure activity in Western Sydney at future meeting.	Open. To be provided at future meeting in 2024.

Meeting 23, 14 March 2024

Action Item No	Action Item	Status
1.	Department to provide a breakdown of the number of submissions received by postcode data.	Closed. Provided to FoWSA Members via email on 10/4/2024
2.	Department to provide an update on results from the final tranche of market research at the next FoWSA.	Open. To be provided at future meeting in 2024.
3.	Airservices to present on the aviation and firefighting station being built at WSI.	Open. To be provided at future meeting in 2024.

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Appendix B

Attendees

Ms Lee de Winton – Chair
Mr Jacob Idiculas – Resident of Bossley Park
Mr Gordon Henwood – Resident of Mulgoa
Mr Wayne Willmington – Resident of Luddenham
Mr Peter Munro – CEO, Aeria Management Group
Ms Susan Templeman MP – Federal Member for Macquarie
Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP – Federal Member for Lindsay
Ms Kelli Bennett-Smith – Office of the Federal Member for Hume
Hon John Ajaka – CEO, Liverpool City Council
Cr Todd Carney – Mayor, Penrith City Council
Ms Kate Stares – Representative of Campbelltown City Council
Mr Chris Kwong – Qantas Group
Mr Chris Taylor – Business Western Sydney
Mr Scott MacKillop – WSA Co
Ms Katy Hannouch – WSA Co
Ms Catherine Payne – WSA Co.
Mr David Jansen – Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & the Arts
Ms Lulu Ou – Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & the Arts
Ms Anna Rynne – Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & the Arts
Mr Daniel Knott – Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & the Arts
Mr Ty Sheers – Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & the Arts

Guest Presenters:

Ms Deborah Palmer – WSP Australia
Ms Caitlin Bennett – WSP Australia
Ms Annette Dittmar – Airservices Australia
Mr David Wells – Airservices Australia

Forum on Western Sydney Airport

Apologies

Mr Greg Copeland – Resident of Camden
Ms Jo Bromilow – Resident of Blaxland
Mr John Walton – Resident of Silverdale
Cr Matt Gould – Mayor, Wollondilly Shire Council
Ms Anna Guillan – Chair of Regional Development Australia
Mr David Trevelyan – Basair
Mr David Borger – Business Western Sydney
Mr Rob Walker – Regional Aviation Association Australia
Mr Scott Mitchell – Virgin Australia
The Hon Angus Taylor MP – Federal Member for Hume
Dr Mike Freelander MP – Federal Member for Macarthur
Ms Anne Stanley MP – Federal Member for Werriwa
Dr Rosemary Dillon – CEO, Blue Mountains City Council
Ms Lindy Deitz – General Manager, Campbelltown City Council
Mr Paul Veigel – Hawkesbury City Council
Mr Andrew Glenis – Western Parkland City Authority
Mr Daniel Jarosch – Aeria Management Group