

ITEM MAYORAL MINUTE - SECOND SYDNEY AIRPORT

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I believe that the establishment of a second airport at Badgery's Creek is in the best interests of our community and in the best interest for all residents in greater Western Sydney and should be strongly supported by Council.

Since the construction of Kingsford Smith, aviation in Sydney has grown dramatically. Between 1985/86 and 2011/12, total passenger movements through Sydney have more than tripled from 9.5 million to 36 million (Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics – 27 February 2013).

Sydney Airport is struggling to accommodate the demand for flights into and out of the city and it is estimated that by 2027, the airport will not be able to cater for any additional flights.

The incremental increase in the number of arrivals and departures at Kingsford Smith will put pressure on the current curfew restrictions and will have a cumulative impact on the amenity of our residents who live below the current flight paths.

In addition, more flights mean more traffic to and from the airport, much of that from Western Sydney which will pass through our City creating more congestion on our roads.

The establishment of a second airport is a major project that will underpin employment opportunities for Western Sydney and should this go ahead, it must occur in conjunction with sufficient transport infrastructure including road, rail and freight networks. The second airport will be a project that will help improve Sydney's transport network by creating an employment hub, thereby reducing the amount of traffic travelling east to work.

The Federal Treasurer, The Hon. Joe Hockey, has said that a second airport at Badgery's Creek was essential to promote growth and investment. The Federal Infrastructure Minister, The Hon. Warren Truss, is also backing the Badgery's Creek Airport with speculation that the Prime Minister will announce the project ahead of the May budget. The Federal Opposition have also indicated support for the airport.

If the project is to go ahead, it requires State cooperation, as land and infrastructure surrounding the airport is State owned and controlled. The NSW Premier, Barry O'Farrell and his government need to come out and support this vital infrastructure project. To date the Premier continues to refuse to support an airport at Badgery's Creek.

2014 is the time to act. Badgery's Creek Airport has broad community support, it has business support, the airlines are strong advocates and the Federal Government and Federal Opposition have demonstrated a bipartisan approach in supporting the second airport.

It is critical that the State Government get behind this major infrastructure project that will provide benefits to all sectors of the community as well as providing a significant opportunity for economic growth to the Western Sydney region.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council support the proposed second airport at Badgery's Creek as its development will deliver a significant long term benefit for our community.
2. THAT the Mayor writes to the Federal Treasurer, the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and the Federal Opposition Leader indicating Council's support for a second airport at Badgery's Creek.
3. THAT the Mayor writes to the State Premier and the State Member for Drummoyne urging them to support the second airport at Badgery's Creek as its establishment will have a significant benefit for our local community in reducing the future impact of aircraft noise and traffic congestion, and will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs to the heart of Western Sydney, generate new infrastructure (especially transport) and reduce the strain on Sydney's roads and rail systems linking Western Sydney to the CBD and Kingsford Smith Airport.