



The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for the Environment and Water
CANBERRA ACT 2600

21 October 2024

Dear Ministers

We are writing on behalf of residents of Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains to request that any advice on or approval of the Western Sydney International Airport Flightpaths include a range of conditions as detailed below.

Who we are:

Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is a 60-year-old organisation with over 850 members and a strong history of successful conservation of the Blue Mountains environment. BMCS was an important partner in writing the scientific document for the Greater Blue Mountains Area, which was submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, leading to a successful nomination in 2000.

Residents Against Western Sydney Airport (RAWSA) was established in 2015 following the announcement by the then Prime Minister that Western Sydney Airport would be built. We aim to provide the public with researched and balanced information on the social and environmental impacts from the construction of a 24-hour airport in Western Sydney. We represent over 3000 supporters and members.

Ken Mott is a resident of St Clair and has been advocating for many years for residents of St Clair who will be affected by the opening of Western Sydney International Airport.

Our preferred pathway

The conditions detailed below are proposed given our expectation that the Federal Government will choose to not listen to the people of Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, instead preferencing commercial interests over the health and well-being of people and the preservation of natural environments. Our preferred approach is outlined in our briefing note submitted to the Office of the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,



Regional Development and Local Government following our meeting with Audrey Marsh and Nicholas Beaver on 26 September 2024 as attached.

Why we are requesting these conditions:

Rather than repeat the evidence in support of the conditions we propose, we refer you to our respective submissions in response to both the draft EIS on the flightpaths and the Senate Inquiry into the Impact and Mitigation of Aircraft Noise. These are attached for ease of access. We also attach our briefing note submitted to Minister King's Office on 26 October 2024. We have continued to learn since the submission of the attached documents and gathered further information in support of our position. We would very much appreciate the opportunity to speak with you directly.

Our proposed conditions:

The conditions on the approval of Western Sydney International Airport flightpaths are as follows:

- (1) The introduction of a legislated daily curfew from 11pm to 6am, flight movement caps and long-term operating plan as applies to Kingsford Smith Airport.
- (2) The retention and continued operation of current exemptions to the Sydney Airport Curfew Act that allow the overwater landing of certain aircraft between 11pm and 6am including freight, emergency, business, and passenger aircraft.
- (3) The review of the draft compensation policy and its revision to provide just compensation for all those who will be affected by the opening of the airport including insulation for those homes and facilities that will be significantly affected by aircraft noise at ground level and above, and buy backs of homes and land where, due to rezoning or proximity to the airport, sale is unlikely or at prices significantly lower than their market value had the airport not been built.
- (4) The immediate funding and establishment of a 20-year study on the human health and educational impacts of Western Sydney International Airport and its flight paths and associated economic costs, with baseline data to be gathered prior to the airport's opening in 2026. The study should be undertaken by credible suitably qualified academics selected through open tender, and its design and implementation overseen by an independent advisory group comprising suitably qualified epidemiologists, noise experts (measurement and health), health economists, and community representatives.
- (5) The immediate funding and establishment of a 20-year study on the impacts of Western Sydney International Airport and its flightpaths on, and associated economic costs to, the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the Burratorang State Conservation Area, with baseline data to be gathered prior to the airport's opening in 2026. The study should be undertaken by credible, suitably qualified academics selected through open tender, and its design and implementation overseen by an independent advisory group comprising suitably qualified ecologists (for mammals, reptiles, and birds), noise experts, economists, and community representatives.



(6) The immediate establishment of an independent community advisory group comprising appropriate experts (i.e. health, environment, ecology, aviation and noise) and members from the Blue Mountains, Western and South-Western Sydney communities impacted by WSA and its associated flightpaths. The community advisory group must be independent of the Executive and Administrative arms of all tiers of Government and report directly to the Minister, with terms of reference to be subject of community consultation prior to their adoption.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our proposed conditions with you prior to your consideration of the final EIS and flightpaths. To arrange a mutually convenient meeting time please contact Alix Goodwin, RAWSA at alix.goodwin@bigpond.com or m: 0417 679 964.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Dollin'.

Jenny Dollin
President
Residents Against
Western Sydney Airport

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annette Cam'.

Annette Cam
President
Blue Mountains
Conservation Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Mott'.

Ken Mott
Resident, St Claire

cc. Hon Chris Bowen MP, Member for McMahan
Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP, Member for Lindsay
Ms Susan Templeman MP, Member for Macquarie