



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

ABN 38 686 119 087

PO Box 29 Wentworth Falls NSW 2782

Phone: (02) 4757 1872

E-Mail: bmcs@bluemountains.org.au Web Site: www.bluemountains.org.au

Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

27 February 2025

The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Email: Minister.King@mo.infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Minister King,

FAILURE TO RELEASE FINAL WSI FLIGHT PATHS AND ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (the Society) has over 900 members and a strong history of successful conservation of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA) and surrounding natural environment.

Since the October 2023 release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement into the flight paths of the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI), the Society has been strongly campaigning to ensure that the final flight paths do not have a detrimental effect on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA), its flora and fauna, its world-renowned Wilderness and the adjacent natural areas which are protected as part of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife estate.

A summary of our actions to date is attached to this letter. The Society has worked collaboratively with all parties involved in this important matter.

The WSI final flightpaths and EIS were published and sent to the Minister for the Environment and Water for advice on 7 November 2024. The Minister had 28 days to provide advice to you, Minister King, as the Minister responsible for WSI and the decision-maker on this matter.

In December 2024, the Society received advice that the release of the final decisions on WSI flight paths and any relevant conditions imposed, was expected before the end of December 2024. It is now almost the end of February 2025, and these decisions still have not been released by you.

The Society strongly urges you to release this information prior to the upcoming Federal election to give residents in the Blue Mountains an assurance that their concerns regarding the health of the natural communities and the GBMWhA has been addressed.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and to consider our concerns. I can be contacted for further discussion on my email president@bluemountains.org.au .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Cam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a trailing "Cam".

Mrs Annette Cam
President
president@bluemountains.org.au

cc susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au

SOCIETY ACTIONS TO DATE.

In relation to the proposed flight path design, the Society, on behalf of its members:

- Provided a written submission to the draft EIS (January 2024),
- Provided a written submission to the Senate Inquiry into the impact and mitigation of aircraft noise (April 2024)
- Presented witness statements to the Senate Hearing in Penrith (August 2024)
- Met with Senator Canavan regarding the potentially detrimental impact of aircraft flying at low altitudes over protected areas close to WSI
- Met with personnel from your office online 26 September
- Participated in community information sessions and provided written comments on the minor modifications to proposed flightpaths including night-time operations, presented in August 2024
- Met with Simon Hickey, CEO WSI and personnel from the Department of Infrastructure and Transport in October 2024 to discuss Society concerns.
- Signed a joint letter from the Society, RAWSA and residents of St Clair, NSW addressed to both you and Minister Plibersek in October 2024, regarding conditions the community demands are considered as part of the approval of the WSI flight paths.

The Report from the Senate Inquiry, including its recommendations, was released in November 2024. I draw your attention to Recommendation Number 1 of this report, which states:

“2.80 The committee recommends that the conditions for approval of the Western Sydney Airport include a requirement for the Western Sydney Airport Corporation to study the impact of its flights on Australian native species.”¹

The Society strongly supports this recommendation and is prepared to work collaboratively to ensure that an independent and scientifically rigorous research is implemented commencing in 2025 prior to the commencement of WSI operations.

1

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/Aircraft_Noise47/Report/List_of_recommendations