



Residents Against Western Sydney Airport Incorporated

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Global Airports Action Group

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A Message of Support from Sydney, Australia

While being late-comers to the international family of communities fighting against airport concerns, the Residents Against Western Sydney Airport group (RAWSA) understands the issues faced by all groups around the world.

Despite the vast distance from Australia to other countries, RAWSA believes there are benefits for all community groups in not only providing moral support to one another, but by sharing our experiences, research, campaign tactics and long term strategies.

It is becoming obvious that Governments, Airport Managers and Corporate interests around the World are employing the same tactics to achieve their objectives, by deliberately providing half-truths and misinformation to affected communities, until it is too late to do anything about it.

Health, environmental, lifestyle and pollution issues are being ignored in their efforts to expand the airline industry.

Sydney has an airport which operates well below capacity because it is subject to an 11 pm to 6 am 'no fly' curfew. There are about 500,000 people affected by flight paths from this Airport and so they are given night time relief from aircraft noise and pollution.

Our Government is proposing to build a new Airport in the Western part of the Sydney Metropolitan Area (termed Western Sydney), which will operate 24 hours a day and have flight paths that will adversely affect a growing population of more than 2,000,000 people.

There will be no operations curfew at the site (the locality is known as Badgerys Creek), there is no rail link to the site, inadequate road networks, no fuel line (so all fuel will have to be trucked in by road) and the site is adjacent to both Sydney's primary water supply Dam and just 7 kilometres from our World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park.

Additionally, the provision of a High Speed Rail link between the Capital Cities of Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne (which accounts for about 30% of current flight movements) is dismissed by our Government and its private sector supporters. Instead, they propose a 1950's airport solution to a 21st Century transport problem.

Our community has been subjected to 2 years of media and political misinformation which has focused on a small number of benefits and has totally ignored the horrendous impacts that the project will have.

RAWSA is committed to informing our communities about the true situation, confident that awareness will drive the necessary political pressure to stop the airport being built and to use the site for more beneficial, sustainable and environmentally friendly development.

To all similar community action groups around the world, we support your efforts and wish you every success in your localised fight. Our hope is that you will support us in our efforts, as well.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Dollin

President,

Residents Against Western Sydney Airport