

QB24-000004

ISSUE: WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT

BACKGROUND:

s22(1)(a)(ii)



- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is responsible for leading the Expert Steering Group for the airspace and flight path design for WSI. In addition to the department the Group includes CASA, Airservices Australia, Department of Defence and WSA.
- On 24 October 2023, the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for WSI preliminary flight paths was released for public feedback. Submissions were accepted until 31 January 2024.
 - 8,477 submissions were received.
- The draft EIS release was supported by community engagement across Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Locations for community engagement events focused on communities where there is significant concern around the impacts of the WSI flight paths and changes to other airports in the greater Sydney region which are required to safely integrate WSI flight paths.
 - Two letterbox drops were completed. One occurred in July and August 2023 to 922,345 addresses across 12 Local Government Areas (LGA) in greater Western Sydney to notify of the release of preliminary flight paths. The second, led by Airservices Australia, occurred in late November and early December 2023 to 1.5 million addresses across 26 LGAs.

- During the exhibition period the department held 25 engagement events, including 13 drop-in information sessions, 11 stalls and one online webinar. Airservices Australia supplemented the engagement by holding 8 additional events. The department also conducted 37 briefings with Federal MPs and/or their offices, NSW State MPs, local councils, NSW State agencies, and community interest groups.
- A Forum on Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA) meeting was held in August 2024.
- Throughout August 2024, the department consulted with affected communities on two further proposals that are being considered for the preliminary flight paths” (1) a redirection of jet aircraft travelling to the East from WSI at night; and (2) a night-time noise abatement procedure.

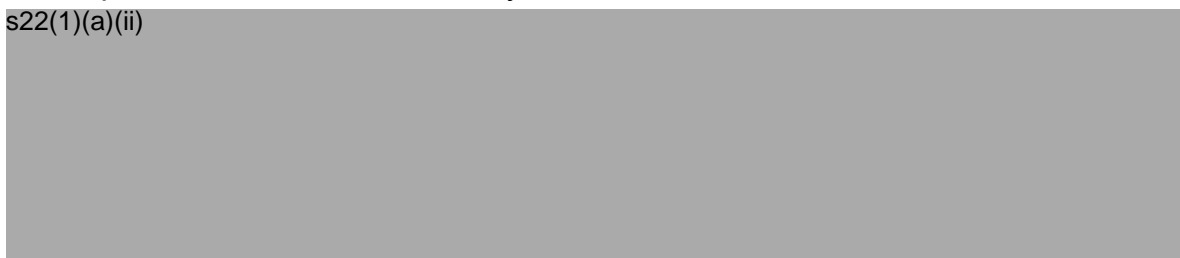
CURRENT SITUATION

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- All submissions received on the draft EIS have been considered by the department. A submissions report is being developed to respond to issues raised in submissions, and it will accompany the final EIS.
- The final EIS is due to be published in late 2024
- Non-confidential submissions on the draft EIS have been published on the department's Online Community Portal.

s22(1)(a)(ii)



SUGGESTED SPEAKING POINTS:

s22(1)(a)(ii)



s22(1)(a)(ii)

- We are committed to implementing flight paths for WSI that genuinely consider feedback from the community and addresses environmental impacts where possible.
- The draft EIS for the preliminary flight paths includes assessments of the noise, social and environmental impacts of WSI's preliminary flight paths and was on public exhibition until 31 January 2024.
- The department has undertaken extensive consultation with the community since the initial release of the preliminary flight paths in June 2023. Further engagement was carried out during the draft EIS public exhibition period.
- The preliminary flight paths were developed according to airspace design principles that reflect community feedback from the 'proof-of-concept' flight paths released in 2015. These principles include minimising flights over residential areas and reducing the impact on the community of aircraft operations at night.
- 8,477 submissions were received on the draft EIS, and they are being carefully considered.
- Issues raised in submissions will be responded to via a public submissions report that will accompany the final EIS. The final EIS is due to be published in late 2024.
- We are committed to balancing the needs of the community, environment, industry and users of the broader Greater Sydney airspace, while maintaining safety as a priority, in the design of Western Sydney Airport's flight paths.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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Current as of: 29 October 2024

QB25-000003

ISSUE: Western Sydney Airport

BACKGROUND:

s22(1)(a)(ii)



- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department) is responsible for leading the Expert Steering Group for the airspace and flight path design for WSI. In addition to the department the Group includes CASA, Airservices Australia (Airservices), Department of Defence and WSA.
- On 24 October 2023, the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the WSI preliminary flight paths was released for public feedback until 31 January 2024. A total of 8,477 submissions were received and were carefully considered. There was also extensive engagement with affected communities through forums and meetings.
- This feedback was included into the final EIS which was published on 7 November 2024.
- The development of WSI's flight paths remains on track for the airport's scheduled opening by late 2026.

Released under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

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- The preliminary design and environmental assessment phase of the preliminary flight paths is nearing finalisation and will conclude when the referring parties (the Minister for Infrastructure, Airservices and CASA) consider and respond to advice from the Minister for the Environment and Water on whether the flight paths should be authorised. This process has not yet been finalised.


SUGGESTED SPEAKING POINTS:

s22(1)(a)(ii)

- We are committed to implementing flight paths for WSI that genuinely consider feedback from the community, addresses environmental impacts, and maintain safety as a priority.

- The preliminary flight paths have been the subject of extensive consultation with the community going back to their initial release via the Aircraft Overflight Noise Tool in June 2023.
- The department received 8,477 submissions on the draft EIS. All submissions have been considered, categorised and addressed in a Submissions Report attached to the final EIS, which was published on 7 November 2024.
- WSI's flight paths remains on track for finalisation for the airport's scheduled opening by late 2026.

s22(1)(a)(ii)



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