



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Why do we need an airport in Western Sydney?

To accommodate the growth in demand for aviation services

The 2012 *Joint Study on aviation capacity in the Sydney region* found that demand for passenger journeys in the Sydney region will more than double from 40 to 87 million over the next 20 years. Demand will double again to 165 million by 2060.

However, Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport cannot accommodate this demand and if no additional capacity is provided, 54 million of these forecast passenger journeys will be unmet by 2060. This means that approximately one in every three potential passengers will be unable to travel.

Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport is Australia's busiest airport by passenger movements, but also the smallest by land area – approximately one third the size of Brisbane Airport. There are no real options for increasing aviation capacity to handle demand much beyond 2030.

To provide significant economic and employment opportunities

As access to Sydney becomes increasingly constrained, Sydney will face increased competition for investment and commercial opportunities from other domestic and/or international cities. Tourism and related industries will also be impacted, resulting in lost economic and employment activity.

While some tourists or businesses may divert to other Australian cities, such as Melbourne or Brisbane, tourism surveys have shown that the more likely scenario is that most potential tourists will be lost to other countries.

Economic modelling has shown that the economic costs of not meeting Sydney's future aviation demand are substantial. If nothing is done, \$17.5 billion in New South Wales (NSW) gross state product will be foregone by 2060, with \$34 billion in foregone gross domestic product. In 2060 alone, 57,000 jobs will be foregone in NSW, and 77,900 jobs will be foregone nationally.

On the other hand, a new airport will generate substantial economic activity and employment opportunities, particularly for Western Sydney. By 2060, an airport at Badgerys Creek has the potential to contribute approximately \$24 billion to the gross domestic product and 60,000 jobs.

To provide better aviation access to residents of Western Sydney

Western Sydney has a population of over two million people – almost the size of Brisbane. In the mid-2030s, this will grow to three million people, and will be home to one in every two Sydneysiders.

Analysis by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics demonstrates that residents in Western Sydney undertake less air travel than the Sydney average.

An airport in Western Sydney will enable easier access to aviation services for more people in the broader north-west and south-west of Sydney, allowing them to save the time and cost of travelling to Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport. This will be an important source of passengers in the earliest years of Badgerys Creek, although passenger numbers will increase substantially as congestion at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport intensifies.