



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Why was Badgerys Creek chosen?

Badgerys Creek is located approximately 56 kilometres from Sydney's Central Business District by road. It was identified as a potential site for an airport from as early as 1969 and the Australian Government acquired a site of approximately 1,700 hectares between 1986 and 1991.

Considered as the best site by successive governments and studies

Badgerys Creek has been considered the preferred site in detailed studies commissioned by successive governments since the 1970s. In 1986, following an extensive site selection process, the Australian Government announced that Badgerys Creek had been chosen as the site for a second major airport for Sydney.

While the airport development was delayed due to the construction of a third runway at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport, the Government maintained ownership of the land.

Badgerys Creek has been recommended in subsequent studies and investigations, including the environmental impact statement in 1999 and, more recently, the 2012 *Joint Study on aviation capacity in the Sydney region* (the Joint Study).

The site has been protected by long-term planning and zoning restrictions

The number of viable greenfield sites that can support an airport development has been declining over the last several decades alongside population growth and Sydney's expansion. However, the site at Badgerys Creek has been largely protected from incompatible residential and urban development through New South Wales (NSW) Government planning restrictions in place since the 1990s.

The NSW Government has also proposed an expansion of the Western Sydney Employment Area (WSEA) which would see the Badgerys Creek site abutted by land zoned for industry and commercial use. While this would further reduce future noise impacts on nearby residential areas, the proximity of the airport to the WSEA presents an opportunity to transform the airport area into a hub for jobs and development.

Have other options to a second airport been examined?

The Joint Study undertook a comprehensive site selection process, assessing 80 sites across 18 locations in the Greater Sydney region. Consistent with previous studies, it found that the Badgerys Creek site was the best site for a second Sydney airport.

The Joint Study also revisited many previous proposals to increase aviation capacity in the region, including options to expand Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport, adjusting regulatory settings at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport, and using existing airports beyond the Sydney basin such as Canberra and Newcastle. However, none of these options could meet Sydney's needs in the long term.

The Joint Study explains how these judgements were formed and can be found at:
http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/sydney_av_cap/.