



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Badgerys Creek and the environment

Badgerys Creek has been subject to extensive environmental assessment in the past, including a comprehensive environmental impact statement in 1999. The Environment Minister at the time stated that there were no insurmountable challenges to developing an airport at Badgerys Creek.

The Australian Government is committed to meeting all of its requirements under Commonwealth environment legislation.

Community concerns

Concerns that are sometimes raised include jettisoning fuel and air pollution near airports.

Jettisoning fuel

There are some concerns expressed by the public that aircraft routinely jettison fuel in flight or prior to landing. This is not the case. Jettisoning fuel, more commonly known as 'fuel dumping', is an extremely rare event and there are no recorded cases of fuel from civil aircraft reaching the ground.

Fuel dumping would only be used (mainly by larger international aircraft) in the rare event of an emergency situation to lighten the aircraft's weight to allow for a safe landing. Even in the case of emergencies, fuel dumping is considered as a last resort, with aircraft first circling nearby to burn off the fuel or simply landing overweight.

Many of the commonly used aircraft types in Australia, such as the Airbus A320 and the Boeing 737, are not even capable of dumping fuel. More generally, every day thousands of aircraft land and take-off safely from cities all over the world and deliberate fuel jettisoning is not considered to be an issue.

Air pollution

New generation aircraft are now quieter and cleaner than ever before. Aircraft operating in Australia are required to meet international emissions standards established through the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The aviation sector continues to reduce its footprint through a range of initiatives. Australian airlines are introducing newer, more fuel efficient aircraft into their fleets. The Boeing 737-800 aircraft, which is in common use on domestic routes, is about 20 percent more fuel efficient than earlier Boeing 737 models. The latest models like the Boeing 787 and the Airbus A350 are considerably more fuel efficient and quieter than the aircraft they will replace.

Airlines will always strive to improved efficiencies to minimise fuel use and modern navigation tools, like satellite approach technologies, help to deliver better environmental and commercial outcomes.