



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Building an airport at Badgerys Creek

A new airport will cater for Sydney's passenger demand for the decades to come. This means that Badgerys Creek will eventually develop into a full scale airport with parallel runways.

However, in the initial years it will begin as a smaller airport with a single runway to serve the modest demand expected in the short term. This may be similar to Canberra or Gold Coast Airports which service three and six million passengers respectively.

The airport will grow over time as passenger numbers and aircraft activity warrant additional investment.

How long will it take and how much would it cost?

Developing a greenfields airport is a long-term project – it is not simply the case of building a runway and terminal. A new airport requires comprehensive planning and consultation, as well as the construction of supporting infrastructure, such as road links and utilities. Although Badgerys Creek is the best site, no site is perfect and each has its own set of challenges. For Badgerys Creek, it involves earthworks of 51 million cubic metres, relocating high tension power lines and realigning the Northern Road.

The Australian Government estimates that the airport could be ready to take its first flight in the mid-2020s. This is not dissimilar to timeframes suggested for the proposed parallel runways at Melbourne and Brisbane Airports.

An initial airport development at Badgerys Creek would cost in the order of \$2.4 billion (in 2012 dollars), based on estimates in the *Joint Study on aviation capacity in the Sydney region*. The question of how the airport will be funded between the private sector and government is one of the vital tasks of the Western Sydney Infrastructure Unit. However, as Australia's major airports are operated by private entities under appropriate lease arrangements, a similar arrangement would be expected for a new airport.

Will the Government need to acquire more land?

The site owned by the Australia Government is sufficient to support an initial airport development and further land acquisition is unlikely to be required. Any future decision to expand would require consultation between the Government, the airport owner and affected stakeholders.