

Submission to Senate Inquiry- The planning, construction and management of the Western Sydney Airport project.

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Introduction.

I am a retired teacher living in Glenbrook in the lower Blue Mountains. We fled living under the noisy flight paths of Randwick to Mulgoa in 1975 then Glenbrook in 1981 to bring up our family in a less noisy environment. I am strongly against the building of the 24hour airport in western Sydney.

The proposal to build the airport at Badgerys Creek has been rejected a number of times in the past due to the undesirable impacts on the people and environment of Western Sydney and Blue Mountains. The last time it was shelved was in 1999. We got World Heritage Listing of The Greater Blue Mountains National Park in 2000.

The announcement to go ahead with the airport in 2014 came as an unpleasant surprise. The reasons it was rejected in 1999 still exist and are even more relevant today especially because of climate crisis.

There are many, many reasons to be angry and to oppose the building of a No Curfew airport in Western Sydney. My submission is about only one reason...**the Climate crisis the planet is experiencing making the location and construction of this airport dangerous for the millions of residents in Western Sydney and Blue Mountains, eventually making parts of it uninhabitable.**

The latest IPCC Report states that global warming poses a grave risk to humanity and that the world is already 1.1C warmer than preindustrial level.

This poses serious risks for Australia as we are already seeing the effect including **more frequent longer lasting and more intense heat waves**, harsher droughts, coastal flooding and longer and more dangerous bushfire seasons.

These findings add to my fear and concern over the construction and location of Western Sydney Airport. The site is located in the already most polluted and hottest part of the Sydney Basin with no cooling sea breezes which help to disperse the pollution caused by aircraft at Sydney Airport. The pollution from the WSA will be pushed up to lower Blue Mountain villages. Also, the location is close to Warragamba Dam and the catchment area...Sydney's major water supply.

Already temperatures at Badgerys Creek and other suburbs close to Penrith reached over 50degrees in the summers of 2019 and 2020 as reported in **SMH article..."The Sydney suburbs that hit 50C last Summer."** As also reported in the article..."Sebastian Pfautsch, a senior lecturer in urban studies at the School of Social Sciences at WSU, said the findings of his research showed the effects of climate change were already apparent."

Already we have housing estates in places like Oran Park and Mulgoa Rise with the housing being so close together making it almost impossible to have trees which can mitigate heat. However, even with the efforts by NSW Government to mitigate the extreme heat of future summers by planting 1 million trees by 2022 they are not enough on their own to counter the rising heat. As Professor Santamouris says in the article, **ABC Science... "Heatwaves may mean Sydney is too hot for people to live in with decades."**.. even 5million trees would only decrease the maximum temperature in Western Sydney by 1 to 1.2degrees.

These estates, with their heat absorbing black roofs, cause extreme heating. Temperatures of 50C are just the ambient air, the radiant from bitumen roads, etc can push to 80C and the surface temperature of playground equipment has been measured at 100C. With increased development planned around WSA how long before it becomes uninhabitable? Dr Pfautsch points out in the article that poorly insulated houses with heat absorbing black roofs are still being constructed in great numbers out west. As he says, "How long can we

afford to build these “heatboxes” that will at least be there for 30 to 60 years? DrPfautsch also points out in the article that in some Western Sydney suburbs 80 percent of the surface area is sealed with roads, pavements, carparks, buildings and other kinds of constructions that trap heat.

As 22million cubic metres of earth are being moved, land cleared of all vegetation, hundreds of kilometres of heat absorbing black bitumen being laid for roads, kilometres of tarmac for runways , more housing estates with black roofs more and more heat absorbing construction all causing massive heat sinks, how long before Western Sydney becomes uninhabitable?

If this airport does go ahead as planned I am fearful for own health and well being but am more concerned about the future of my children and grandchildren.

If our Governments are aware of the IPPC report and believe that global warming poses a risk to humanity then they need to find an alternative to building an airport at this location.

In other words....If they are serious about climate change they can't be serious about building Western Sydney Airport.