



ANNE STANLEY MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WERRIWA



The Secretariat
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir / Madam

The planning, construction and management of the Western Sydney Airport project

I write to make a submission in relation to the Committee's Inquiry into the planning, construction and management of the Western Sydney Airport project.

With a majority of Western Sydney Airport and the Aerotropolis falling within the boundaries of my electorate, as the Member for Werriwa, I have keen interest in ensuring this project is a success. I believe the airport has the potential to transform the region for the better but must be planned and managed effectively for the benefit of everyone.

Academic John Kasarda, who developed the concept of the aerotropolis has said "Any airport whose surroundings lack a coherent development plan usually runs into trouble."

Despite some early promising signs in this project, including local and indigenous job targets being exceeded, strong community engagement and enthusiasm from global leaders in industry, I wish to raise a number of concerns held by my constituents and me. They are:

- **Landowners and property acquisition**
- **Timely and quality transport links**

Landowner and acquisition

Many small landowners within my electorate accept and welcome the airport and aerotropolis.

They are however, upset with New South Wales Government's lack of transparency regarding property acquisition. Large areas of the Aerotropolis precincts have been zoned "Environment and Recreation," a new zoning categorisation created specifically for the Aerotropolis.

Landowners demands are not unreasonable, if their land needs to be acquired, they are happy to work within the process and receive fair compensation. They simply want certainty, transparency and a timeline.

When will their properties be acquired and by which agency? To date, this information hasn't been forthcoming.

Understandably, this is causing stress, anguish and health issues. I have heard many concerning reports from my constituents:

- Family breakdown, with divorced husband and wife living under the same roof because no one will buy their property.
- Couples ready to leave their property derelict, unable to sell.
- The elderly, having worked the land for decades, seeing offers for their properties recede.

These residents have lost all trust in Governments both State and Federal and it easy to understand why.

As of October 2020, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's website stated that the *Wianamatta-South Creek Delivery Strategy* will confirm "land uses, access, ownership and management arrangements" with consultation expected to begin later that year.

A month later all references to this date were removed from the website, it now states the Strategy "will set out how Wianamatta-South Creek's trees, open space and creeks will be managed now and in the future." Furthermore, the release date is now sometime in 2021.

To date, the State Government has only earmarked a stretch of land along Thompson's Creek for acquisition. They must do more. They must provide detailed information on which land is being acquired, by which agency and when.

This will provide the certainty and confidence landowners deserve.

Transport links

It is estimated 50% of the Aerotropolis' workforce will be residents of south-west Sydney.

As such, it is critically important to the success of Western Sydney Airport and the Aerotropolis that world class transport links are built and built now.

Progress on the M12 and upgrade to Elizabeth Drive have stagnated for far too long. Long promised, neither of these projects have yet to break ground. If they fail to be completed on time, the already clogged roads of south-west Sydney will be further congested.

In addition to road links, public transport links are also vital to the success of this project.

The south-west rail line extension from Leppington through to Western Sydney Airport provides the quickest, most cost-effective public transport solution.

The land corridor is already preserved and would easily and quickly connect the airport to Liverpool, Campbelltown and the rest of Sydney via the existing rail network.

It would also provide a direct link between Western Sydney Airport and Kingsford Smith Airport.

The proposed Fifteenth Avenue Smart Transit envisaged by Liverpool City Council would also provide a cost effective, link along Fifteenth Avenue from the Liverpool CBD to Western Sydney Airport. This would directly connect Sydney's third CBD, both established and emerging suburbs and industrial precincts in my electorate with the airport and aerotropolis.

The government must fund the required infrastructure properly and promptly.

In closing, the Western Sydney Airport is a once in a century project that has the potential to transform the region through unequalled employment, education and economic opportunity. For that potential to be fulfilled, the Western Sydney Airport project and the Aerotropolis must be of an exemplary world's best standard. This can only be achieved through effective and transparent planning, construction and management.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Stanley MP
Opposition Whip
Federal Member for Werriwa