



8 August 2024

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee

RE: Inquiry into impact and mitigation of aircraft noise

I refer to the upcoming public hearing in Western Sydney into the impact and mitigation of aircraft noise.

Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI) is now more than 80% complete and preparing to open in late 2026. It is set to become Australia's newest major international airport and is a catalyst for the ongoing economic and social transformation underway across Western Sydney.

As the owner of the airport lease granted by the Australian Government, WSA Co is responsible for the development and operation of WSI to improve aviation services for the people of Sydney while maximising the economic benefits of the airport for all Australians. Its purpose is also to optimise the benefits of WSI for employment and investment in Western Sydney and to deliver sound financial, environmental and social outcomes for the community.

The community has been at the forefront of decision making around this airport for several decades. Successive state and federal governments ensured appropriate land use controls were put in place, which even preceded the formal decision to build a new 24-hour airport in Western Sydney.

From the outset, we have had strong community and stakeholder engagement and established social programs for two-way communication on the airport progress. We are committed to continuing our engagement with the community – across First Nations communities, local residents, young people and multicultural communities – into operations.

In the last financial year alone, we have reached more than 228,000 people through strong school engagement, mentoring, and participation at local events and at career information sessions to showcase the jobs and opportunities that WSI and the broader airport precinct will offer.

WSI has helped channel billions of dollars of investments into our region – aside from the airport itself, it has attracted massive investment from both the state and federal governments for transport infrastructure that will connect the region's approximately 3 million people with their new airport.

To date, WSI has invested half a billion dollars in more than 360 Western Sydney businesses. That's money flowing to local trades and construction companies but also caterers, security guard firms and various other small and medium-sized businesses.

A 24-hour airport will unlock much needed aviation capacity and deliver greater national supply chain resilience for Sydney, while generating lasting socioeconomic benefits across Western Sydney, particularly for the region's skilled workers, local businesses and tourism operators.

I look forward to participating in this inquiry and providing the Committee with further information, as required.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Webster
Executive General Manager, Commercial & Strategy