

Thank you for accepting this submission.

I no longer live in the Blue Mountains which was my home for nearly 32 years. Nevertheless, my love for the beauty of the place and the service it provides the Greater Sydney Basin urges me to write this.

It is now clear that from the beginning the Western Sydney Airport has been mired in unethical practices. I do not need to provide detail on these.

The \$30 million purchase is now public knowledge and has the befitting contempt of the people of Western Sydney and surrounds (and anyone who follows the trajectory of the roting behaviour of our federal government).

The public consultations from the start have also been window dressing. Residents' concerns and objections have been dismissed over and over again. Democratic process thrashed and trashed.

Others will provide details on the mismanagement of this unwanted and ill-placed project. I want to remind the Inquiry Committee members why this project was and is a terrible idea which will blight the lives of at least 2 million Sydneysiders on a daily basis and ask **WHY WOULD ANY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT DO THIS TO ITS CITIZENS?**

1. NOISE POLLUTION DAY AND NIGHT

Western Sydney Airport is to be a 2-runway, 24-hour airport.

The effects on health by airport noise are well documented. They have been studied and reported on by government authorities and others in Sydney as well as overseas since the 1980s.

The ill-health effects will be reflected in an increase in morbidity and mortality as well as public health costs.

How can any government justify a 24-hour airport in a densely and growing populated area with no sea outlet? Western Sydney is being treated like a Third World enclave, with no respite from noise. Have the public health costs been factored into the financial outcomes for the airport?

2. AIR POLLUTION DAY AND NIGHT

How will 24-hour air pollution from aircraft exhaust plus the increased road traffic around the proposed aerotropolis impact people, especially children and other vulnerable groups? As you would know, Australia already has the highest rate of asthma in the world. What will this airport do for those statistics and for other diseases related to air pollution, including those related to the likelihood of increased bushfires?

3. HEAT CRISES

Airports increase the heat of surrounding areas. In our situation of rising temperatures through climate change and with parts of Western Sydney already experiencing 45-degree days, what kind of effects will this have on the incidence of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and other related morbidity? Do we want to get to 50-degree days sooner and more often?

4. ESCALATION OF BUSH FIRE AND OTHER FIRES

In addition to increasing temperatures which dry out bush land, particulates dropping from jet engines and in exhaust gases will turn the BM National Park into another catastrophe waiting to happen. Combine volatile eucalypt oils with jet fuel and other particulates and you have a recipe for explosive fire balls and other phenomena we are seeing currently.

The location of this airport is an enormous threat to the health and lives of many residents in Western Sydney. Why are their lives less valuable than those of other parts of Sydney?

5. IMPACT OF COVID AND OTHER FACTORS ON AIR TRAVEL

Covid has put a major dampener on air travel. Even if WSA is being constructed to be primarily a freight airport, with the decrease in air travel due the current pandemic and people's awareness of the carbon and other emissions created by the aviation industry and their effects on climate change, the level of air travel is unlikely to return to what it has been.

With this in mind, Sydney airport will be able to cope very well without the burden of an extra (24-hr) airport in the Sydney Basin.

6. WSA IS A WHITE (FLYING) ELEPHANT

A white elephant is an expensive item that is troublesome and useless. There is still time to stop this airport and use the infrastructure already built for other purposes that will enhance Western Sydney instead of making it a place of ill-health.

Maria Arranz