

**Opening statement:
Impact and mitigation of aircraft noise public hearing 20 September 2024**

Firstly, I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we meet today. I pay my respect to Elders and the continued cultural connection to land, skies and waterways.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

We're building a major full-service airport in Western Sydney, which is Australia's third largest economy, recognising the urgent need to increase Sydney's aviation capacity so that Sydney can compete on a world stage.

This airport has been a long time in the making with careful planning and with bipartisan support over four decades. While crucial for Sydney, it's also critical for Western Sydney which is set to grow to over 3 million people in the next decade.

Since we began earthworks in 2018, we've been guided by a commitment to transparency, open communication and collaboration with our neighbours and infrastructure partners.

We're fortunate for the community interest across Western Sydney and we support a range of community events in surrounding local government areas including the Blue Mountains, Campbelltown, Camden, Wollondilly, Penrith, Liverpool and Blacktown.

I want to acknowledge the concerns of some residents regarding aircraft noise and concerns about living near airports and under flight paths.

I understand there were around 8,000 submissions received to the draft EIS and that process continues to be managed by the Department.

The airport presents a once in a generation opportunity to bring great jobs and reduce the income disparity between Western Sydney and Greater Sydney.

For example, the Committee would have seen in the report we commissioned from Deloitte Access Economics showing that 24/7 operations present an opportunity for an extra 14,100 full-time jobs a year, and \$3.6 billion of economic activity in Western Sydney by 2051. This means our future generations will have great jobs and higher paying jobs closer to home.

Western Sydney is already benefiting from the airport's development with more than \$17 billion invested by governments in supporting road and rail infrastructure. WSI alone has invested half a billion dollars into local businesses through the construction of the airport.

Western Sydney International Airport is a catalyst for growth and investment and as Australia's first major greenfield airport in more than five decades, early planning has helped mitigate some of the impacts that would naturally come with building such a large piece of infrastructure.

I am proud of the care our teams have taken in listening and working with the community as we've built the airport from the ground up. And we're committed keep working with the community, airport partners and stakeholders as we prepare to become an operational airport in late 2026.

I'd be happy to provide more information and answer any questions the Committee may have.