



WESTERN SYDNEY



23 November 2015

The Hon Robert Stokes MP  
Minister for Planning  
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**Sydney Business Chamber:**  
*Helping Sydney maximise its potential as a leading global city.*

Sydney Business Chamber is a division of NSW Business Chamber which represents 30,000 businesses across the state.

Dear Minister,

We are writing to advise you of the outcome of a recent workshop held with member companies to ensure the Western Sydney Airport delivers on its promise to become a major economic and employment catalyst for Western Sydney.

There was unanimous agreement from attendees (Full list at the end of this letter) to call on the Australian and NSW government to jointly establish a dedicated authority to ensure off-airport planning and delivery is co-ordinated effectively as the new airport is being developed and after it becomes operational.

We are interested in opportunities to develop an economic and employment zone in the area surrounding the proposed Western Sydney Airport. To leverage the significant investment in the new airport and encourage business activity in the region, it's obvious a more coherent vision from all levels of government is needed. The overlapping governance and planning controls surrounding the Badgerys Creek site and the challenge of coordinating a plethora of government agencies and utilities are key impediments in the economic development of the precinct.

The establishment of a new Authority needs to create a bold vision for the airport precinct and have the capacity to deliver on that vision. We believe a target for job creation should be established. Ensuring that Sydney remains the number one visitor destination and an economic driver of the Asia Pacific region should be also a central objective for an Authority.

As a long term investment in the region, the vision must also necessarily be long-term – sketching out the growth and development for the next 50-100 years, with the Airport as the facilitator. It needs to recognise the essential contribution of major institutions and the private sector in this new positioning. It should provide a clear but flexible framework which enables the private and public investment that will be essential for the Western Sydney Airport and its surrounding region to achieve its full potential.

Establishing a single Authority for development of the airport and its surrounds would draw on the approach utilised in other successful airport projects from around the world<sup>1</sup> and would ensure that we get the vision and delivery of the Western Sydney Airport right.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, Denver International Airport is operated by Denver's Department of Aviation. Denver's mayor appoints the CEO, who then serves as a member of the mayor's cabinet and reports directly to the mayor. The Denver City Council, while having no authority over appointing the chief executive officer, has oversight of contracts and purchasing as prescribed by city rules.



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Planning for the Airport precinct will also need to see the Airport integrated into the local transport network ensuring it connects the city and surrounding centres.

As best practice experience from global airports indicates, administratively the Authority needs to be capable of cutting through the three tiers of government with a reporting line into Federal and State Cabinet and a working partnership with Liverpool and Penrith Councils.

The Authority's responsibility and powers will need to be clearly defined from the outset. Due to its broad scope and intergovernmental responsibilities, mirror legislation establishing the Authority could be developed at both federal and state level. It may be useful to revisit the work of the growth centres commission as an example of how this sort of dedicated Authority could operate. We suggest that one of the key concerns of the Authority will be to ensure that planning for the Airport precinct will also see the Airport integrated into the local transport network ensuring it connects the city and surrounding centres.

Importantly, the Authority needs to incorporate private sector input, whether that be through a reference board or similar. It needs to also represent the interests of customers, particularly airlines and local businesses, as well as the local community.

Thanks again for the opportunity to feed into this process. Please feel free to contact Mr George Powell, Policy Adviser, Infrastructure, New South Wales Business Chamber on 02 9458 7559 or via email to [george.powell@nswbc.com.au](mailto:george.powell@nswbc.com.au) if you wish to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Borger".

**David Borger**

Director - Western Sydney



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## **Participants at the Western Sydney Airport Development Authority workshop**

Arup

Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd

Australian Southern Special Economic Zone Pty Ltd

Celestino Pty Limited

Coleman Greig Lawyers

Cox Richardson

Datacom Investments Pty Ltd

Deloitte

design+PLANNING

Dexus Property Group

Endeavour Energy

Greenfields

Inghams Enterprises

KPMG Australia

Lend Lease Building Australia Pty Ltd

Liverpool City Council

NSW Business Chamber

Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust

Southern Cross Group Services Pty Ltd

Suncorp Bank (NSW/ACT)

The GPT Group

The University Of Sydney

Urbis

Western Sydney Local Health District

Western Sydney University