

MEDIA RELEASE

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NO NEW GREENFIELD AIRPORT NEEDED FOR SYDNEY

The aviation capacity requirements for the Sydney region into the future can be met by using existing airport infrastructure more efficiently says the Australian Airports Association.

There is no need to develop a new ‘Greenfield’ airport and associated ground transport infrastructure, the cost of which some have estimated to be around \$15 billion.

AAA Executive Director Caroline Wilkie said in addition to Sydney Airport’s ability to meet forecast demand, Bankstown, Camden, Canberra and Newcastle Airports are all able to meet the aviation activity demand that is forecast in their approved Master Plans.

“These airports can meet the Sydney region’s medium to long term aviation needs. “It is important that the region be managed as a single, highly efficient, integrated aviation site.”

“Sydney Airport has the capacity to meet forecast aviation demand in the Sydney region to at least 2029. This is clearly shown in its Master Plan, which was approved by the Australian Government in 2009.

“Even if a new ‘second’ Sydney airport were ever built in NSW, it would, given the areas in which Sydney’s residential growth centres have been designated by the NSW Government, be very distant from Sydney.

“Connecting such a distant Greenfield site to the Sydney CBD would require the provision of high speed rail and augmented motorway infrastructure. “The money needed to provide such infrastructure would be far better spent on improving existing ground transport infrastructure that would better link the current airport assets in NSW.

“The difficulties associated with developing a new Greenfields airport in any other location in the Sydney region (e.g. the Central Coast or Southern Highlands) would likely be no different to what occurred with the Badgerys Creek site.

“The experience with Badgerys Creek reinforces the AAA’s view that existing aviation infrastructure should always be used as efficiently as possible before contemplating the provision of new infrastructure.

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