

## **RDA SYDNEY WELCOMES WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT ANNOUNCEMENT – BUT WITH MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD.**

Regional Development Australia Sydney Chairman, Dr Rob Lang, has welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to now get on with building Western Sydney's Airport, but insists we must start now and that a long-term vision and a collaborative 'whole-of-Sydney' approach is needed in order to meet the future aviation growth for NSW and Australia.

Dr Lang also welcomed opportunity for RDA Sydney to assist the government through the appointment of Bob Germaine, Executive Officer and Paul Tosi RDA Sydney committee member to the new Forum on Western Sydney Airport.

"Last year RDA Sydney undertook a major study around potential industry development around a future WSA Airport. In our background research, we uncovered significant additional economic development opportunities for Sydney and Australia in having a second flexible 24/7 operational airport which boosts the air connectivity with the rapidly growing Asia Pacific markets." Dr Lang said.

"This airport presents a once in a lifetime opportunity for Australia, for Sydney to not only maintain its global aviation megacity status in the rapidly growing Asian Pacific region; but also allow us to innovate, meet the challenges of digital disruption and rapidly grow the economy, capitalizing on the unique on-line product and services export trade and tourism opportunities that will present themselves in new found emerging country wealth in China and India"

"This means that it is imperative that both KSA and the new WSA airport are designed and upgraded to be internationally leading-edge in passenger and freight handling efficiency-helping Sydney maintain its status within the Asian Pacific region".

RDA Sydney Executive Officer, Bob Germaine also implored the Federal government, that in now building the airport they develop a collaborative planning structure with the NSW government and take into consideration the potential long-term planned and staged implementation growth\_of GWS and the Greater Sydney Region over the next 50-60 years.

"The initial airport design and planned infrastructure must provide appropriate land-use and transport corridors for future growth within the region, taking into account the time in the future when the airport second runway is operational and the changes that will occur over that time in overall population and employment growth of GWS and the rest of Sydney as a whole."

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***Editorial Notes***

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a partnership between the Australian, State, Territory and Local Governments to support the growth and development of Australia's regions. RDA was an outcome from a Council of Australian Government's initiative to merge the activities of the previous national Area Consultative Committees with the state regional development boards.

The role of RDA committees is to build partnerships between governments, regional development organisations, local businesses, community groups and key regional stakeholders to provide strategic and targeted responses to economic, environmental and social issues affecting the regions of Australia.

This RDA initiative is being delivered through a national network of 55 committees and we are the Regional Development Australia Committee for Metropolitan Sydney. For more information visit the website [www.rdasydney.org.au](http://www.rdasydney.org.au)