



Our mission is to help conserve the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains and to increase awareness of the natural environment in general.

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BACK TO THE FUTURE

©Ross Coster
[Convenor, Blue Mountains Conservation Society No Badgerys Creek Airport Subcommittee]
©Christine Davies
[Editor, The Hut News]

The following are extracts from an article in 'Traveller' by Jacob Saulwick, 3 March 2012.

The Federal Minister for Transport, Anthony Albanese, yesterday released the report of a two-year-long study into Sydney's aviation needs. But Mr Albanese immediately rejected two of the study's main recommendations, and the state government dismissed the whole idea of a second airport anywhere near Sydney.

The report recommended Badgerys Creek as the best location for a second airport site, with Wilton the second best option. **Mr Albanese ruled out Badgerys Creek and instead said he would investigate Wilton.**

The NSW Minister for Transport, Gladys Berejiklian, reiterated the state's opposition to another airport in the Sydney basin and said high-speed rail needed to be part of the solution.

Mr Albanese said the refusal to consider Badgerys Creek was "a commitment that we gave at the last two elections and we believe that's appropriate".

The other recommendation Mr Albanese rejected was to lift the hourly cap in flight movements at Sydney Airport.

The NSW government rejected Mr Albanese's offer to release the study together. Ms Berejiklian said it had been "very clear that we do not support another airport in the Sydney Basin".

We ask Mr Albanese (Federal Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development, Shadow Minister for Tourism) and Ms Berejiklian (Premier of New South Wales):

Why has your opinion changed since the Traveller article was written in 2012? How are we to trust 'commitments' that change within a few short years?

A second airport at Badgerys Creek will have enormous impacts on the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, Sydney's water supply and the scenic values and ambience of the Blue Mountains on which the tourist industry is based.

300 hectares of Cumberland Plain woodland will be destroyed, along with the animals that call the area home.

People living in Western Sydney will have their health degraded by noise and air pollution.

Construction of the airport and its use will have enormous impacts on greenhouse gas emissions.

Sydney doesn't need another airport; 50% of passenger movements at Mascot are to and from east coast destinations.

We need a commitment to build high speed rail along the east coast from Melbourne to Brisbane now.

You can write to Mr Albanese and Ms Berejiklian:

- Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development, Shadow Minister for Tourism, PO Box 6022, Parliament House, Canberra 2600 email: A.AlbaneseMP@aph.gov.au
- Hon Gladys Berejiklian, Premier of NSW, PO Box 5341, SYDNEY NSW 2001, or go HERE to send an electronic message.

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