



**Australian Government**

**Civil Aviation Safety Authority**

AIR NAVIGATION, AIRSPACE AND AERODROMES BRANCH

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## **MAJOR PROJECTS –SYDNEY SCIENCE PARK CONCEPT PROPOSAL, STAGE 1 WORKS AND SUBDIVISION. CASA COMMENTS ON EIS**

The Department has sent CASA a request for advice in relation to the Sydney Science Park Concept Proposal, Stage 1 Works and Subdivision.

Aviation Safety Relevant Documents:

Appendix CC - Aeronautical Impact Assessment by (AIA) by Strategic Airspace

Appendix T - Wildlife Hazard Assessment by Ecological

Appendix U - Wildlife Hazard Management Plan by Ecological

Appendix TT – Statement of Lighting Requirements by ARA Electrical

Environmental Impact Statement - by Willowtree Planning

The Aeronautical Impact Assessment evaluates the proposal against the NASF Guidelines, which is appropriate planning methodology. CASA agrees with the AIA Executive Summary (Section 1) and Conclusions (Section 10). CASA recommends the implementation of the proposals, procedures and mitigations described in the AIA.

Table 58 of the EIS is also based on the National Airports Safeguarding Framework. CASA has no issues with the Aviation Safety coverage in the EIS (Section 7.27). CASA concurs with the conclusions and recommendations in the EIS.

The risks from lighting are well covered at Section 4.6 of the AIA. The risks from infringements to protected Airspace are well covered at Section 4.7 of the AIA. Please note that CASA does not comment on noise issues (NASF Guideline A covered at Section 4.2 of the AIA). From an Aviation Safety perspective, the only aspect to follow up is the mitigation of the risk of wildlife (specifically the risk of bird strikes). The bird hazard would be the most prominent risk, albeit difficult to quantify and control.

The Wildlife Hazard Assessment Report indicates that there will be a reduction in Wildlife Attraction Risk, primarily due to the change in land use. Also, as described in the EIS Table 58 ... “Appendices T & U, ... demonstrates that that the proposed development will reduce wildlife attraction risk across the site through use of select vegetation, planned spacing of trees and managed water features combined with an ongoing monitoring regime”.

Also, CASA agrees with the 'Guideline C: Wildlife' commentary in the AIA.

Implementation of recommendations in the Wildlife Hazard Assessment Report and the Wildlife Hazard Management Plan should keep the risk to Aviation Safety reasonably low.

Western Sydney International Airport (WSACo) is the primary 'wildlife stakeholder' and has an aerodrome Wildlife Hazard Management Plan, suspected to be in the Review stage. It is expected that the Ecological Wildlife Hazard Management Plan will inform or be reflected in the aerodrome Wildlife Hazard Management Plan. The Ecological Wildlife Hazard Management Plan describes the Western Sydney Airport input into the SEARs. WSACo has bird hazard expertise and training and better situational awareness than this office on local wildlife hazards. WSACo will implement bird monitoring and deterrence.

In summary, CASA has no objections to the Sydney Science Park Stage 1 proposal.

Yours sincerely

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