

## Email correspondence -Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

The following email correspondence was received from Mitchell Neto of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (Environment and Land Use Planning – Western Sydney Unit) on the 16 March 2015.

**From:** Neto Mitchell [mailto:Mitchell.Neto@infrastructure.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 March 2015 11:06 AM  
**To:** Skye Playfair Redman  
**Cc:** ianmalouf@dadi.com.au; Liau Charlene  
**Subject:** RE: SSD and consultation with CASA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
Hi Skye,

As discussed previously, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development is responsible for the planning and approval process for the proposed Western Sydney airport at Badgerys Creek. More detail about the proposed airport can be found in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* referral developed by this Department, which can be found at [http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc\\_ap.pl?name=referral\\_detail&proposal\\_id=7391](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=referral_detail&proposal_id=7391).

As noted in the referral, the proposal is for an airport on the Commonwealth-owned land at Badgerys Creek with the runways sitting on a Northeast/Southwest alignment. Given the location of the proposed Energy from Waste Facility is to the Northeast of the proposed airport site, it will be important that its development takes into account potential impacts on the operations of the proposed airport.

Given the early stage of planning, we are unable to provide specific advice on this issue. However, we do request that the any environmental or planning assessments associated with the proposed Energy from Waste Facility have regard to the National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF). The aims of the NASF include the improvement of safety outcomes by ensuring aviation safety requirements are recognised in land use planning decisions. It comprises six guidelines which include regulating and managing the risks associated with: aircraft noise; wildlife strikes in the vicinity of airports; and intrusions into the protected operational airspace of airports. The NASF was developed by the National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group comprising representatives of relevant Commonwealth, state and territory departments and agencies (including the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and Airservices Australia) and the Australian Local Government Association. In May 2012 all Australian governments agreed to implement the NASF. Full details of the NASF including guidance material are available online at: [http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/airport\\_safeguarding/nasf](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/airport_safeguarding/nasf).

In particular, development of the Energy from Waste Facility should take into account:

- Obstacles to aircraft overhead – The height of buildings, structures and objects in the proposed development must not penetrate any prescribed airspace (which would include at the very least the Obstacle Limitation Surfaces) expected to be declared around the proposed airport site. Once declared, any construction or activity that impacts on the prescribed airspace will require approval (see Part 12 of the *Airports Act 1996* and the *Airports (Protection of Airspace) Regulations 1996*).
- The attraction of certain wildlife, particularly birds – The proposed site activity may attract birds and other wildlife through the accumulation of waste. Mitigation strategies may be required as the development may result in increased hazards for aviation operations at a future airport development, especially in relation to bird strike during the take-off and landing phases of flights.
- Any other potential impacts which may result in increased hazards for aircraft operations at a future airport such as particulate matter and hot air being released into the air, which may require a plume rise assessment.
- The cumulative impacts associated with the proposed Energy from Waste Facility being located in the Western Sydney region which is already subject to significant residential, commercial and infrastructure development.

As the environmental assessment for the proposed airport progresses over the coming months, more information will be made available to assist Urbis in addressing the above issues. Similarly, the Department will be keen to provide more detailed input when the proposed Energy to Waste Facility goes through a formal public exhibition.

If you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Mitchell Neto

**Mitchell Neto**

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