



TAYLOR BACKS PREMIER ON AIRPORT OPTIONS

Release date: 17 December 2012
Release time: Immediate

Angus Taylor, the Liberal Candidate for Hume has drawn upon Premier Barry O'Farrell's proposal to increase capacity at Sydney Airport to call on the Federal Government to rule out Wilton as the site for a second Sydney airport.

Mr Taylor said that the proposal to lift flight caps from 80 to 85 flights an hour during peak periods, and more flights be allowed during the curfew "shoulder" period of 11pm to midnight and 5am to 6am.

Mr Taylor said:

"We need a solution to congestion at Sydney Airport. This has been recognised by all serious thinkers on infrastructure in NSW since the 1970s. However, the Premier's response is the right one until the location of the airport is resolved. And the Premier is entirely correct to say that we can lift our capacity at Mascot for some time. We are nowhere near world's best practice on capacity, and much can be achieved in the short term by increasing capacity at Mascot.

Last week Warren Truss, the leader of the Nationals suggested the best site might still be Badgerys Creek, an option major parties seem unwilling to promote.

"I agree with Warren Truss that at some point in the near future we need to rule something in, and the best site is Badgery's Creek.

"I wouldn't rule out a fast train to Melbourne as a solution to this problem – it would free up an enormous amount of capacity at Sydney Airport

"Wilton, which the Gillard government is investigating, is not the right site.

"Earlier this year, Infrastructure NSW had a look at the issue of the second airport. INSW, which is headed by Nick Greiner, did not even think Wilton was worth mentioning as a potential site. The INSW study was truly independent study – unlike the airport study commissioned by Federal Labor which was a political fix, designed to come up with the Wilton site as an alternative answer.

"Right now, with huge wastage of taxpayers' money occurring at the federal level, we need fact based policy. Starting all over again with a second airport at Wilton makes no sense. There would need to be major reshaping of the whole area and massive dislocation of the existing community – to achieve this.

“The Premier is quite correct to draw on the INSW recommendations that Mascot has significant additional capacity that has not yet been realised. I have been arguing this point for a long time. This approach should be shaping the overall infrastructure plans for the State and the Sydney basin right now.

“Whatever the outcome, the federal government should walk away from Wilton as a potential site.”

Please contact Angus Taylor on 0413 963 113 if there are queries.