



Press Release

Immediate release

Western Sydney's Flight Path: Aviation Forum Charts Future of Tourism & Aviation

Campbelltown, NSW – 30 May 2025

The Western Sydney Tourism Taskforce (WSTTF) hosted a highly successful Aviation Forum at the Campbelltown Catholic Club, in collaboration with Wollondilly Business chamber and Liverpool chamber of commerce drawing a strong turnout from tourism stakeholders, government representatives, and aviation leaders. The event marked a pivotal moment in the lead-up to the 2026 opening of the Western Sydney International (WSI) Airport, spotlighting the immense opportunities for the region's visitor economy.

The forum aligned with the NSW Government's 2035 Visitor Economy Strategy, which calls for an additional 8.5 million airline seats to meet growing demand. WSI is expected to play a critical role in delivering this capacity.

Key Highlights:

Opening Remarks – Fazila Farhad, Chair, WSTTF

"With the opening of Western Sydney International just a year away, it's never been more important for our industry to unite. The Tourism Taskforce is working tirelessly to advocate for and showcase the strength of our visitor economy—creating platforms like the Western Sydney Tourism Awards, returning on September 5th to celebrate the talent and excellence driving our region forward. **Because it is this industry, right here, that will craft the experiences inspiring people to spend, stay, and explore Western Sydney. The world needs to discover what Western Sydney truly offers as a destination for the ultimate traveller.**"

Distinguished Speakers Included:

- **Greg Warren MP, Member for Campbelltown:** Gave a intro on the region and the importance of the Airport



- **Mayor Darcy Lound, Campbelltown City Council:** Emphasized on the Tourism landscape of Campbelltown and what it offers

Panel Discussion: Moderated by Stevan Sipka (Qantas Freight & WSTTF Board Member), the panel explored with participation from:

- **Karen Jones, CEO, Destination NSW**
- **David Borger, Executive Director, Business Western Sydney**
- **David Donohoe, Qantas**
- **Simon Bernardi, Australia and Beyond Holidays**
- **Gavin Harris, WSI Airport**

Panel Discussion: Moderated by Stevan Sipka (Qantas Freight & WSTTF Board Member), the panel explored:

- How WSI will reshape Western Sydney's tourism landscape
- Strategies for tourism operators to leverage the new airport
- DNSW's role in supporting regional tourism
- The importance of connectivity and infrastructure
- The need for ready-to-go itineraries for international tour operators



The Aviation Panel: From left to right: Karen Jones (DNSW), Gavin Harris (WSI Airport), David Donohoe (Qantas) Simon Bernardi (Australia and Beyond Holidays) David Borger (Business Western Sydney) Stevan Sipka (WSSTF Board member)

The taskforce welcomed the officially appointed CEO Destination NSW Karen Jones.



Karen Jones reaffirmed DNSW's commitment to Western Sydney, encouraging local operators to engage with DNSW programs and leverage upcoming events to boost visibility.

David Donohoe confirmed that Qantas, Jetstar, and Qantas Freight will operate from WSI from day one, with plans to use the Qantas Loyalty program to tailor offerings to the Western Sydney market.

Simon Bernardi urged the region to develop a distinct tourism identity and prepare itineraries now to ensure seamless integration into global travel packages. Connectivity is key in public transport.

Gavin Harris announced that WSI has officially transitioned from construction to operational readiness, with the terminal now in the hands of the airport team.



Chair WSTTF: Fazila Farhad



Board of Western Sydney Tourism with the Aviation Panel



From left to right seated: Karen Jones (DNSW). Gavin Harris (WSI) ,David Donohoe (Qantas), Simon Bernardi (AABH), David Borger (BWS) .Top : Christie Wang (Quest Campbelltown) ,Michael Foulkes, Tony Chiefari (Australian Wildlife Park), Tom Wang (Fifty Hotel Group) , Fazila Farhad (Chair WSTTF), Stevan Sipka (Qantas)

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Western Sydney Tourism Taskforce NSW Inc.

Western Sydney Tourism Awards 2025

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