

Legislative Council Questions

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND WORKS COMMITTEE

1. Are there plans for the construction and operation of a fuel pipeline from a fuel terminal to Western Sydney Airport?

As part of the airport's construction, Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI) has built the infrastructure required to store aviation fuel at the airport and deliver fuel from this storage to aircraft. This includes capability for connection to an external pipeline feed. While the provision of fuel to an airport's boundary is not WSI's responsibility, we are working collaboratively with the NSW Government on options for the construction of a fuel pipeline.

2. Can you please outline what the commitment was to the fuel pipeline in the NSW Freights and Ports Plan 2018-2023? Was there a condition of approval that required Transport for NSW to investigate or deliver the fuel pipeline to the Airport?

This is a matter for Transport for New South Wales.

3. When we had a visit to the Western Sydney Airport Visitor Centre, we were advised that the fuel pipeline may not be commercially viable until after the Airport has commenced operations. Can you explain what this means?

Based on the current forecasts, WSI considers that demand for an aviation fuel pipeline to the airport will grow and reach commercial viability for a commercial supplier of fuel, or a fuel pipeline operator, in the airport's early years of operation. Or earlier if NSW delivers a multi-fuel pipeline to Western Sydney.

4. What discussions have Western Sydney Airport Corporation been involved in regarding the management of fuel deliveries by road to the Airport? How is this being planned and managed?

Like many airports across Australia, including Adelaide, the Gold Coast and Canberra, fuel will be delivered to WSI by road in the early years of operation. Applying an approach of open access to the infrastructure for all fuel suppliers, the management of fuel deliveries to WSI by road will be coordinated by the individual delivery companies with the WSI fuel farm operator and the exact delivery route undertaken in consultation with the State.

The requirement for fuel will grow as aviation activity at the airport grows, and WSI anticipates that the commercial opportunity associated will drive the development of a fuel line in the short to medium term.

5. Has a route or easement been identified, so as to minimise the disturbance caused by the future construction of the pipeline?

WSI understands that the NSW Government has identified potential pipeline routes, and the majority are established or could be established using publicly held land. WSI is seeking the NSW Government to take a coordinated approach to the identification and protection of suitable pipeline corridor(s) from potential ports to the airport before the optimal routes are compromised by competing development activity.